

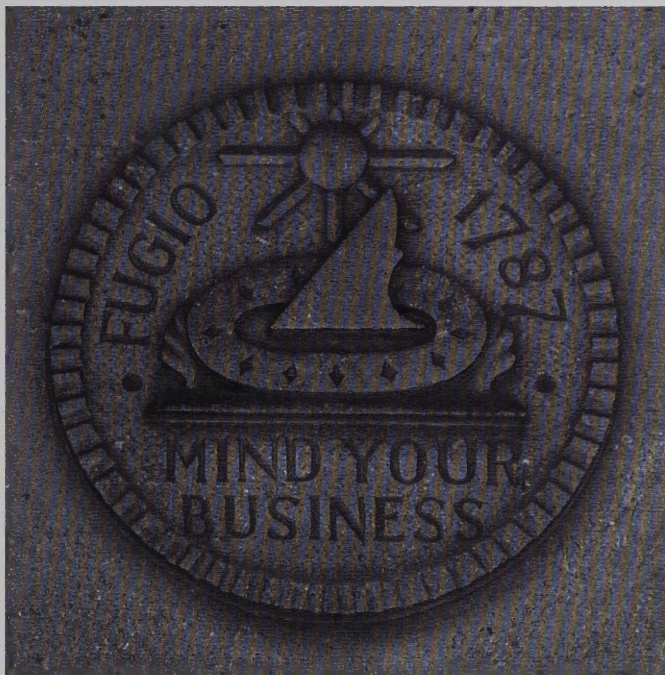
THE ASYLUM

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“Books are books, but they are also men speaking to present and future—human extensions beyond locality and grave. They are records, documents, sources, heritage, literature, creative ideas given life and clothed with form. They are the recorded sum of human wisdom and folly, learning and ignorance, beauty and ugliness, nobility and sordidness, faith and despair.”



THEODORE C. BLEGEN

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The Asylum

Vol. 27, No. 1

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Front Cover: Architectural medallion based on the Fugio Cent, above the entrance to the B. Max Mehl building in Fort Worth, Texas (see the article in this issue by Max B. Spiegel).



Editor's Introduction

As one of the founders of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society — in fact the one who named it — Jack Collins would be pleased to see how the organization that he helped create has grown and flourished. Despite his untimely death in 1996, his enthusiasm and dedication continue to inspire the members of the society.

It is therefore very fitting that he continues, via his family, to be a presence in the pages of this journal, whose first issues he edited. It is a pleasure to be able to print a letter from his family:

To the editor:

The family of Jack Collins would like to acknowledge the significant efforts of George F. Kolbe and Alan Meghriq in bringing Jack's unfinished manuscript on 1794 Dollars to publication. Without their initiative, diligence, and expertise, this manuscript would still be locked in the hard drive of Jack's computer. Through their efforts, special orders were taken and *1794: The History and Genealogy of the First United States Dollar* by Jack Collins and Walter Breen was published. Our family deeply appreciates all their work to honor Jack's memory.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Betty J. Wood, Jack Collins' sister

Louise A. Wood, Nancy E. Wood, and Stanley A. Wood, Jack's nieces and nephew

They have also made a generous gift to the NBS in Jack's memory that will support an award to be made each year for the best article written by a new contributor to *The Asylum*, thus neatly combining recognition of this society's origins and its future. The candidates from 2008 are found on the back of the ballot for NBS officers as an insert in this issue. Please encourage these authors' efforts by voting!

David Yoon

The One Hundred Greatest Items
of United States Numismatic Literature:
A Survey of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, Part I

Leonard Augsburger

At the 2007 American Numismatic Association convention, NBS President John Adams proposed that the NBS conduct a survey of the greatest literature about United States numismatics. A candidate list of approximately 400 items was published in the Fall 2007 issue of *The Asylum*. Readers were invited to suggest additional candidates, these were added, and a final ballot was distributed to the membership. Sixty ballots were returned by NBS members, who numbered their top hundred picks from 1 (highest) to 100. One hundred points were awarded for a first-place vote, ninety-nine for second place, and so on. An Excel spreadsheet was used to record and add the votes. No adjustments have been made to the resulting totals — this survey thus reflects the collective opinion of the voters.

Individual ballots, naturally, varied from the final list. Indeed, biases were evident in a number of ballots and in some cases clearly betrayed the collecting specialties of the voter — one medals, another colonials or perhaps currency, and so on. Recent works tended to rate more highly than earlier efforts, perhaps reflecting an increased familiarity with the current literature or the simple fact that modern researchers possess greatly expanded access to archival and other resources. Comprehensive and general works are frequently found towards the top of the list, while more specialized efforts are scattered throughout. Numismatic literature guides performed well in the survey, as one might expect from NBS voters.

The list as a whole is eminently collectable, particularly if one allows the occasional reprint into the fold. There are no unique or impossible items here. No doubt a few NBS members already have the entire set, and to those who have had the foresight to anticipate the top selections

of the membership, your work is already done. For the rest of us, here is a challenge; the reward will be a comprehensive library of the core works of United States numismatic literature.

The author acknowledges Charles Davis' *American Numismatic Literature*, William Malkmus' cumulative index of *The Asylum* (supplement to volume 25), Martin Gengerke's *American Numismatic Auctions*, and John Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*, volumes I and II, all of which were invaluable in the preparation of this article. Elizabeth Hahn, ANS Librarian, and RyAnne Scott, ANA Library Manager, were helpful in responding to research and loan queries. Joel Orosz lent a number of the Top 100 entries from his numismatic library. Dave Harper contributed the entry on the *Numismatic News* (#65). Michael Savinelli contributed to the *Rare Coin Review* entry (#66). Finally, thanks are in order to NBS Secretary-Treasurer David Sundman, who coordinated the printing and distribution of the Top 100 ballots.

Due to its length, the results of the survey are being published in two parts. This part contains items 41 to 100; the next issue of *The Asylum* will print the highest-scoring 40 items, as well as lists of point totals and top scorers in particular formats (books, catalogues, etc.).

41. Fuld, George, and Melvin Fuld (1959) *Patriotic Civil War Tokens*

The precursor and necessary companion to *U.S. Civil War Store Cards* (#43), *Patriotic Civil War Tokens* conquers the first half of the problem — cataloguing the privately issued “civil war cents” which bore patriotic slogans. The two works, taken as a pair, represent a substantial reworking of Hetrich and Guttag's 1924 effort, *Civil War Tokens and Tradesman's Cards*. Indeed, the Fuld's added 4000 varieties to the 7000 previously enumerated. This volume describes and illustrates over 500 of the patriotic designs, and, when the mules and off-metal strikes are thrown in, the resulting list of varieties numbers over 2000. The authors clearly exerted great effort untangling the mules, and came to refer to the task as “Civil War mumbly-peg.” The Fuld's had set the bar high, and now faced the challenge of completing the second half of the project.

42. Overton, Al (1967) *Early Half Dollar Die Varieties, 1794-1836*

After the early copper enthusiasts, Overton's disciples are among the most zealous of the variety hunters. Early halves are fertile ground for collectors — rich in variety and ample in number. The workhorse of early American silver, and struck in greater quantities than its brethren of the same metal, the bust

series in particular remains highly available to today's collector, though to be sure rare varieties are scattered about. The 1817/4 (Overton-102) is particularly well known in this regard and commands the front pages of the hobby press whenever a new specimen is discovered. Overton's variety work is definitive and remains the standard for early half-dollar attribution. The fourth edition, published in 2005 with twice the page count of the original, contains updates from Overton's son-in-law, Don Parsley, including new oversized photographs and condition census data.

43. Fuld, George, and Melvin Fuld (1972) *U.S. Civil War Store Cards*

Melvin and George Fuld's compendium of "Civil War cents" brings order to a chaotic assemblage of over 8000 varieties, issued by US merchants in response to the lack of circulating hard money beginning in 1862. The experiment with privately issued coinage was quickly put to rest by an Act of Congress, which in 1864 prohibited the practice, but not before millions of the commercial tokens (known as "store cards") had been produced. The Fuld's' 600-plus-page work categorizes these tokens by state and includes photographs of nearly every known type. Credit is given to any number of individuals, as this herculean task was beyond even the dynamic duo of Fuld father and son, who edited certain portions while authoring others. Together with *Patriotic Civil War Tokens* (#41), Melvin and George Fuld thus delivered the standard and enduring presentation of these metallic expressions of the American conflict.

44. Davis, Charles (1992) *American Numismatic Literature*

Davis's work is the best single volume on the subject. Davis lists 1200 items, along with pricing information and descriptions extracted from numismatic literature auction sales in the 1980s and early 1990s — all told, over 3000 auction references are detailed here. The wealth of technical data is superseded only by the trenchant pen of the author, whose interspersed editorial comments ("priceless," according to Michael Hodder) turn the entire production into a lively and engaging affair. Davis is not afraid to call one reference "dry reading," while elsewhere he notes that Clain-Stefanelli's *Numismatic Bibliography* left American collectors "feeling snakebitten," and that another author's work is "self-aggrandizing" in nature. Useful appendices enumerate Woodward and Chapman auction catalogues, as well as the ANS monograph series.

45. *The Colonial Newsletter* (1960-date)

"Dedicated to the study of early American numismatics," *The Colonial Newsletter* represents the best American approximation of the European numismatic discipline — focused on history and technical studies with little care for

matters of the market. Currently edited by Gary Trudgen and published three times per year by the American Numismatic Society, the *Newsletter* is written to an academic standard, well illustrated and thoroughly footnoted. While the entire content may not exert a universal appeal, the specialist will consistently encounter well-executed and indispensable research, though the simple 8.5"×11" stapled format belies the value of the publication. A CD containing issues 104 through 138 (1997-2008) is available from the ANS.

46. Cohen, Roger S. (1971) *American Half Cents, the Little Half Sisters*

Cohen's book, like many others, came about from the author's desire "that for the last twenty years I have wanted to read it." Thus, the self-published work appeared in 1971, likely at considerable expense to the author—a labor of love and a gift to the hobby. While half cents had been previously treated by Ebenezer Gilbert in 1916, Cohen felt a need to update the work and re-work Gilbert's emission sequences. Cohen produced a complete photographic record by die variety, though some of the halftones are less than ideal for attribution purposes—a second edition in 1982 addressed this shortcoming. Beyond Gilbert, Cohen spent a considerable amount of time in the National Archives chasing information on planchet and coinage shipments. The work is superseded by Breen's *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents*, but as collectors may acquire both for less than the cost of a nice half cent, they ought to pursue the pair, as well as Ron Manley's *The Half Cent Die State Book* (#185 in our survey), an EAC award-winner that presents research updates set amid splendid photographs.

47. George F. Kolbe (1998-2000) *Bass Library*, parts 1-4

A 2000-lot celebration of American numismatic literature, this writer's task might have been considerably simplified given a few days inside the Bass library — but more likely we would have been distracted to the point of paralysis. Where to begin? Bid books of all flavors abound, while plated versions of the important early sales seem prolific as kudzu. Impossible items like Thian's *Register of the Confederate Debt* or the E. H. R. Green eagle and half-eagle photographic plates seem to appear every few pages. Other delicacies include Bushnell's copy of the Roper sale, Hart's treatise on colonial paper money with historical chart, and *The Numismatist* from the first President of the ANA. Beyond individual rarities, the capable executive Bass was more than happy to leverage the efforts of others, in particular Melvin and George Fuld, who contributed to the Bass collection Woodward, Low, Haseltine, Frossard, and Elder sets, among other items. A decade later, many of the prices realized in

the Bass sale seem quite attractive — yet another reminder that today's record price is often tomorrow's bargain.

48. Vermeule, Cornelius (1971) *Numismatic Art in America*

A professor in fine arts and classics at Boston University, and director of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, Cornelius Vermeule applied a much-needed perspective of artistic criticism to the field of American numismatics. For the collector who has graduated past dates and mintmarks, Vermeule delivers a delightful exposé of the oeuvre of our national engravers, setting their work in historic and artistic context. Although isolated from the Old World by space and time, early American artists remained highly influenced by a common Greco-Roman heritage, for which the reader will have a much greater appreciation after absorbing Vermeule's volume. The second edition, published by Whitman in 2007, is illustrated in full color and adds a chapter by David T. Alexander updating the work from its original writing in 1971 to the present time.

49. Baker, William S. (1885) *Medallic Portraits of Washington*

Many Americans of the present era miss the veneration accorded to the "father of our country" in former times. So numerous were these tributes that eventually order was in order, and Baker accepted the challenge, issuing not only this catalogue of over 600 Washington medals, but also three associated works dedicated to biographies, engraved portraits, and character sketches of the first president. Washingtonia was an early numismatic craze, fueled by the



Figure 1. Medal commemorating the inauguration of the Washington Cabinet of Medals (Baker 326). Photo by John Baumgart.

creation of the Washington Cabinet of medals inaugurated by the US Mint in 1860. The Cabinet was noteworthy enough to inspire its own medal (Fig. 1), Baker-326, which combined an adaptation of Houdon's celebrated Washington bust with a rendering of the Cabinet display. America being America, public adulation piqued commercial interest, which did not shy from occasionally muling Washington with lesser subjects, "a perversion of true medallic purposes" in Baker's opinion, whose own work has endured and remains highly regarded in our survey.

50. Haxby, James A. (1988) *A Standard Catalog of United States Obsolete Bank Notes, 1782-1866*, volumes 1-4

Along with Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* and Bowers' *Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States*, Haxby is one of the modern encyclopedic references whose popularity on the secondary market has substantially grown in recent years, and today the four-volume set easily trades at 700 dollars and up. Cataloguing thousands of state bank notes, the work is evocative of the Fuld's *Civil War Store Cards* (#43), meandering through the country from city to city in search of an economic paper trail. Complementing the catalogue are thousands of photographs, a rich iconography proclaiming the ideals of a young American republic. Indeed, the author indicates that over 20,000 photographs were taken during the original research, an immense illustrative investment which extraordinarily enhances the presentation.

51. Breen, Walter, Del Bland, and Mark Borckardt (2000) *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Cents, 1793-1814*

Early coppers are the foundation of American numismatic research, and this volume proves that they maintain a sizable lead on lesser brethren. While certain American series still lack comprehensive die-variety guides, Breen et al. have raised the bar even further. No longer is it sufficient simply to describe all the dies and marriages. Here the three B's are like atomic physicists, exploring successively smaller bits. Individual die progressions are thoroughly explicated, yearly mintage figures are broken down into single deliveries, and copious condition censuses (thousands of citations coordinated by Del Bland) include even die-state information. Surrounding the date-by-date analysis are any number of additional features, most notably 34 die-marriage plates, plus a contribution from Craig Sholley on the technology of the early Mint. To be sure, Sheldon remains the core, but that makes this work no less indispensable.

52. Noe, Sydney P. (1952) *The Pine Tree Coinage of Massachusetts*

Number 125 in the ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs series, Noe's essay on the Pine Tree coinage completed his trio of monographs on Massachusetts silver. Once again, Crosby, "the rock-like foundation for any study of the early coinage of our country," was frequently cited, to the extent of reprinting Crosby's die tables for the Pine Trees. Noe renumbered the Crosby varieties, adding a number of clarifications, and today these remain the standard for Pine Tree attribution. Noe further treated copies, inevitable imitations of anything desirable and ancient. Many of the plates illustrated examples from the T. James Clarke collection, which eventually landed in the hands of the acquisitive John Ford. As a result, Ford XII (October 2005) is a mandatory "go with" for Noe, featuring oversized photography almost better than the coins themselves.

53. Noyes, William C. (1991) *United States Large Cents, 1793-1814*

Nine works on our top 100 list are fully dedicated to early-date large cents. Noyes' 1991 offering delivers the definitive photographic record of the world according to Sheldon varieties. Large, easy-to-use images illustrate each variety, and in some cases intermediate die states are also depicted. The text describes the technical attributes of each variety, one per page, and for the copper-impaired among us specific pick-up points are noted using pointers to the illustrations. Condition censuses are offered for each issue, and these are keyed to entries in the Noyes color photograph collection, easily exceeding a thousand examples. While the photographs in the book are exclusively black-and-white, the author notes in the introduction that color images of any may be ordered. Thus, if one desires a set of color photographs of the highest graded Sheldon-276s (this writer's favorite for its "around the clock" feature), they are just a letter (and check) away.

54. Rulau, Russell, et al. (2004) *Standard Catalog of United States Tokens, 1700-1900*

The breadth of this work is perhaps best expressed by the massive 55-page index. The remainder of the book, well over a thousand pages and including over 5000 photographs, delivers precisely what is promised by the title. Rulau thus achieves what "at one time may have seemed impossible" — a comprehensive guide to all United States tokens for the period in question. While the Civil War store card and patriotic token sections are deliberately abbreviated (readers are referred to Fuld, #41 and #43 in our survey), there is simply no better guide for the generalist. The list of contributors runs two full pages of small

print, meaning that Rulau has effectively acted as the CEO of a medium-sized company in order to produce this titanic tribute to the token.

55. Noe, Sydney P. (1947) *The Oak Tree Coinage of Massachusetts*

Noe's discussion of Massachusetts Oak Trees, number 110 in the ANS Notes and Monographs series, is the briefest of his trilogy encompassing Massachusetts silver. As Noe admits, "there is little to add to Crosby's excellent recording of the data." And indeed, Noe identifies no additional varieties, but does offer a chronological reordering of the Crosby reverses along with credible technical analysis to support his conclusions. T. James Clarke's collection, many of them Würtzbach plate coins, form the basis for the ten plates. As Noe's three separate monographs on Massachusetts silver present a triple challenge for the collector, perhaps the only fault one can find with these defining works is that they were published serially rather than as a single volume.

56. New York Coin and Stamp (1890) *Parmelee*

In his *United States Numismatic Literature*, Adams confers his highest praise ("absolutely definitive") on the Parmelee cabinet. Prior to Adams-Woodin (1913), the catalogue served as a useful resource for pattern collectors, describing over 250 specimens. The pre-federal content is a necessary companion to Crosby's *The Early Coins of America*, including a number of plate coins from that core reference. Not to be outdone was the federal portion of the collection, replete with an 1804 dollar, 1815 and 1822 half eagles, an 1827 quarter, plus massive amounts of proof gold including the 1844 New Orleans delicacies. Davis notes 100 deluxe editions of the original catalogue, quarter calf with thirteen plates. A well-done reproduction, priced and plated, was issued by the B&B Coin Company (Marion, Ind.) in 1975, to the extent of 250 numbered copies.

57. S. H. & H. Chapman (1882) *Bushnell*

Arguably the most influential auction catalogue in our survey, *Bushnell* was a game changer that single-handedly had more impact on the practice of cataloguing than any other item on our list. Presaging the "grand format" of late twentieth-century color-plated catalogues, *Bushnell* raised the bar with its large size and detailed cataloguing. The Chapmans charged five dollars for a liberally plated copy, easily a hundred in current dollars, a shocking figure both then and now. Although outraged with the young upstarts, fellow dealers were eventually forced to follow suit, and auction catalogues have not been the same since. A set of reprint plates, along with the original unplated version of the catalogue, recently sold for about 600 dollars (Fanning Auction I, lot 435).

58. Evans, George G. (1885) *History of the United States Mint at Philadelphia*

The constant flow of visitors to the United States Mint, combined with old-fashioned American capitalism, ensured that some book of this kind would eventually be created. Naturally it includes an overview of the Mint Cabinet, a tourist magnet in former times, along with history of the Mint operations and coinage. The best-selling numismatic book of its era, Evans claimed to have sold over 100,000 copies, many distributed along with George Soley medalets struck on the first steam coinage press, and today the breadth of variants is still not fully catalogued. George Kolbe has come the closest, discussing Frank Van Zandt's collection of 158 copies of this work, in his 104th sale of November 2007. Though hardly a paradigm of scholarship, Evans remains a worthy entrant on our list as the most widely known American numismatic work at the close of the nineteenth century.

59. Attinelli, Emmanuel J. (1876) *Numisgraphics, or a List of Catalogues in Which Occur Coins or Medals Which Have Been Sold by Auction in the United States*

Attinelli's numismatic bibliography is a little jewel, 100-plus pages defining the state of American numismatic literature on the occasion of the Centennial. A listing of auction catalogues by year from 1828 to 1875, *Numisgraphics* also contains bibliographic information on books, periodicals, fixed price lists, and institutional collections. Like Davis (#44), Attinelli weaves personal observations throughout the text, such as this backhanded commentary on Mint insiders, regarding the Longacre sale of 1870: "Though containing a large number of pattern pieces, yet it is not so full as might have been expected from one so long connected with the U.S. Mint." Were a modern collector to go back in time and assemble a library in the 1870s, this would be the traveler's guidebook, although one would probably have to settle for the 1976 Quarterman reprint, as the 1876 edition is rare. Presumably an original would be acquired by our time traveler!

60. Bowers, Q. David (1998) *American Numismatics Before the Civil War, 1760-1860*

This is Bowers at his best, poking through archives and old books, synthesizing American history and American numismatic history into a coherent and enduring whole. Covering the collectors, dealers, and numismatic fashion of the era, the nexus of the book is found in the person of Augustus Sage, 1850s New York coin dealer and founding member of the American Numismatic

Society. While the Sage token series and Sage auction sales are meticulously detailed, the most compelling aspect of the presentation is the time machine which apparently exists behind a secret wall in Bowers' library (in *Adventures with Rare Coins*, #72 on our list, Dave felt compelled to deny the existence of said time machine), for the reader is figuratively transported to New York and Philadelphia in the nineteenth century and made an eyewitness to the blooming American numismatic activity at the eve of the Civil War.

61. Van Allen, Leroy, and George Mallis (1971) *Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Morgan and Peace Dollars*

The release of silver dollars in the early 1960s, millions upon millions of romantic cartwheels, fueled the collecting public into a frenzy of Morgan monomania which remains today unabated. In retrospect it seems inevitable that minute differences in grade and die variety became matters of great import to the coin collector, a breed obsessed with even the slightest distinction. It is to the latter attribute that this book, early versions of which were distributed as early as 1964, is dedicated. Hundreds of Morgan and Peace dollar die varieties are herein catalogued and well illustrated, and today collecting by "VAM" (short for Van Allen / Mallis) variety is as popular as ever, with Morgans remaining a sizable portion of the American numismatic trade. For those whose tastes are not so overtly commercial, the book contributes a generous helping of archival research to the subject and would be a worthy entrant on our list for that reason alone.

62. Kagin, Donald (1981) *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States*

This is the story of three gold rushes in American history, starting in the Appalachians in the late 1820s, exploding in California twenty years later, and concluding in Colorado in the late 1850s. Although California has most captured popular thought, all three are intertwined with private gold coinage, technically illegal but tolerated by a federal government unable to service the blood of commerce. Kagin does more than merely catalogue the artifacts; indeed, the reader must persist until the detailed appendix in order to find the usual technical data. For the real treasure here is the wealth of historical context surrounding private gold coinage — stories of the coiners and the mints, of early strikes and the halting attempts of the US Government to absorb the gold economy. A useful associated item is a sale catalogue recently issued by Kagin's, entitled *The Robert Bass Collection: The Finest Collection of Pioneer Patterns Ever Assembled*.

63. Breen, Walter, and Ronald Gillio (1983) *California and Fractional Gold: Historic Gold Rush Small Change, 1852-1856*

It is most fitting that #62 and #63 in our survey are adjacent entries, for Breen and Gillio tell “the rest of the story,” and one does not have the whole picture of private gold without both references. While Kagin focuses on sexier high-denomination gold, this work covers the thumbnail-sized small change, again issued privately and dictated by the needs of commerce before the San Francisco mint was able to process silver in any useful quantity. Hundreds of catalogue entries, liberally photographed, describe varieties of California small-denomination gold — quarter, half, and whole dollars. Auction citations and pedigrees are especially rich — indeed, this is truly a “buyer’s guide” for the series. The second edition, published by Bowers & Merena in 2003 and among the last of the great B&M titles, contains much new research contributed by Robert D. Leonard, including data on the Smithsonian holdings, and is highly recommended.

64. Beistle, Martin L. (1929) *A Register of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-varieties*

“There is nothing new under the sun,” writes the author of Ecclesiastes, and twenty-first-century numismatic addictions are certainly no exception, judging from Beistle’s foreword, which states that “for more than twelve years all spare time available from business and family, was devoted to this hobby.” Beistle’s accounting is quite plausible, based on the thorough die-variety descriptions found here. Unfortunately only a few of the dates are plated, making the text perhaps more useful to Beistle than to anyone else. Nevertheless, this remained the standard reference until eclipsed much later by Overton and Wiley-Bugert. Interest in Beistle has recently spiked with Bill Bugert’s discovery of the Beistle company archives; full details are presented in *The Asylum* (January-March 2008) and *The Gobrecht Journal* (November 2007).

65. *Numismatic News* (1952-date)

The “Num News,” in coinspeak, was founded by Chet Krause as a monthly trader newspaper for US coin collectors in 1952. The subscription fee of \$2 per year included free classified ads, a long-time hallmark of the publication. News was added as the 1950s progressed and the frequency increased, though it did not become a weekly until 1969. Tom Fruit served as the first editor, though it was Ed Rochette, holding the post from 1960 to 1966, who made it a true newspaper. Coverage broadened to include world coins and paper money, and this in turn spawned sister titles such as *World Coin News*, *Bank Note*

Reporter, *Coins Magazine*, and *Coin Prices Magazine*. Writers have included R. W. Julian, Paul Green, and David Ganz. Cliff Mishler joined the staff in 1963 and forty years later retired after serving as CEO. Current editor Dave Harper joined the firm in 1978 and has held the post since 1994. Other past editors include Mishler, Ed Reiter, Arnold Jeffcoat, and Aryln Sieber.

66. *Rare Coin Review* (Bowers and Merena) 1969-2003

Aptly described by Charles Davis as “an appealing mix of salesmanship and scholarship,” Q. David Bowers’ house organ was an excessively engaging numismatic read. With something for everyone, from scholarly articles to accumulations of trivia gleaned from the seemingly bottomless research files of QDB himself, the *Rare Coin Review* rightfully takes its place in the pantheon of dealer periodicals, “front row center,” as Dave might say. Oh yes, there were coins, too, splendidly photographed and neatly presented on glossy paper (in the later issues), all of which the present writer (who eventually earned from the editor the much-coveted “constant reader” title) eagerly anticipated on a bi-monthly basis. Opportunity beckoned for the authors of companion pieces — Ken Lowe prepared a well-organized index of the first hundred numbers, while Joel Orosz authored a history of the *Rare Coin Review* which appeared in RCR #100 in July 1994 and provided a “you are there” window directly into the Bowers & Merena editorial office. Altogether, an “era of good feeling” was surely in the offing whenever the latest *Review* was united with an overstuffed chair — quite a pleasant combination, this!

67. Carothers, Neil (1930) *Fractional Money: A History of the Small Coins and Fractional Paper Currency*

Carothers’ “history of small coins and fractional paper currency” is really an economic history of the United States told through the story of its coinage. The author, a professor of economics at Lehigh University, wrote to a high standard and left no stone unturned, searching “more than a thousand periodicals and government documents” in order to present substantial original material.

Written in 1929, the work is remarkably durable and remains useful today. Sadly, in the interest of brevity, Carothers eliminated “many interesting details . . . and two important chapters” from the final version — a bibliographic loss if ever one existed, and a treasure waiting to be reclaimed in an archive.

68. Stack’s/ Kolbe (2004-05) *Ford Library*, parts 1-2

Indispensable, informative, and important, George F. Kolbe offers another glimpse into the complexities of John Ford, this time through the eyes of

Ford's reference library. As Kolbe puts it, according to Ford, "the condition of one's library was the barometer of one's character." He might have added the *content* of one's library as well, for in this case it tells us a good deal about Ford, who often remarked that among all his collections, his reference library was the favorite. Ford pursued many sources outside the numismatic mainstream, including city directories, mining and banking, regional histories — in short, anything to get an edge on the competition. And while he did not personally collect federal coinage, he certainly dealt in it and had the library to back it up, including a superb run of Chapman bid books and plated catalogues, the Newcomer inventory, the E.H.R. Green inventory, and hundreds of other items, all here meticulously described by the California cataloguer Kolbe.

69. Bowers, Q. David (1991) *The American Numismatic Association Centennial History*, volumes 1-2

What happens when the irresistible force meets the immovable object? Here we have Dave's dynamic and prolific pen facing off against a hundred years of *The Numismatist*. In this episode, Bowers distills the century-long ANA history into two mega-volumes and creates a useful companion to *The Numismatist* itself. While much text is reused from the ANA publication, the point is that we are seeing the annals of the ANA through Bowers' eyes, and to be sure Bowers includes numerous personal observations regarding the material at hand. As such, whenever using *The Numismatist* for research, it is wise to cross-check this reference for additional commentary.

70. Dickeson, Montroville (1859) *The American Numismatical Manual*

One often thinks of the Red Book as the "first" standard guide, but Dickeson is a true eye-opener. Here is the primordial soup of the modern comprehensive catalogue. While the plates look like play money and technical errors abound (for example, the 1797 half dollar is unlisted), Dickeson represents a necessary stepping stone in American numismatic scholarship. An accumulative science by definition evolves, and Dickeson could have done much worse as he drew upon the few written sources along with personal contacts in the nascent numismatic community. The result was the first comprehensive, illustrated view of aboriginal, colonial, federal, pattern, and territorial coinage. While modern guides are far more accurate (and affordable), they do not convey the wonder of birth that one senses in Dickeson. Serendipitously, the next item in our survey — the Mickley cabinet — served as one of Dickeson's principal resources.

71. W. Elliot Woodward (1867) *Mickley*

Mickley was one of the first blockbuster sales in American numismatics and as such tells us a great deal about what was important to collectors of the era. For starters, there was no quibble with quantity, more than 3300 lots being sold over six evening sessions. Ancients and European coins and medals fill the first half of the catalogue, setting the stage for a small American federal offering of only a few hundred lots. But what lots! The listing of pre-1858 proof sets by year is a great display of collecting prowess, and one sees also the genesis of variety collecting, particularly among the copper pieces. The usual rarities, necessarily a much shorter list in 1867, are all here, from the 1804 dollar to the 1827 quarter and so on. American patterns, colonials, and medals follow. Finally, a tip of the hat is given to present-day bibliophiles at the end of the sale, over a hundred lots, so that today we can peer back in time and see what the numismatist Mickley kept on his bookshelf — an assemblage worth studying with a copy of Attinelli (#59) at hand. Much later, in 1996, Charles Davis produced a named and priced hardbound reprint of *Mickley* which is a faithful reproduction of the original.

72. Bowers, Q. David (1979) *Adventures with Rare Coins*

John J. Ford felt strongly enough about this work to contribute a five-page foreword, revealing between the lines that buried underneath a “suffer-no-fools” façade was an insatiable curiosity driven by mythology as much as by mammon. Bowers more than lives up to Ford’s expectation, delivering a full helping of the romance and lore that is numismatics. Taking a simple idea like the nickel, for example, Q. David effortlessly riffs on any number of seemingly unrelated topics, from early motion-picture theaters to proof sets with “fork marks,” and neatly ties his toolbox of tales into a surprisingly coherent chronology. Every page presents yet another engaging story, and interspersed are delightful period illustrations, many of them the “needle in a haystack” sort so indicative of a deep immersion in American history. Bowers’ “combination of the pedantic with the romantic,” as Eric Newman put it, once again reminds us that questions of valuation or even rarity are merely footnotes to a far richer narrative.

73. Akers (1997-99) *Pittman*, parts 1-3

The poster child of every numismatic investment promoter, Pittman is actually more noteworthy for the conviction of the collector than for the aggressiveness of the auction bidders, for Pittman chose his discipline carefully and steadfastly followed his own path for a long period of time. Of course, had Pittman been chasing nineteenth-century apothecary scrip of the Oswego

River instead of early proof coinage, he would be merely a footnote in numismatic history, albeit one with a definitive collection! That he chose to pursue undervalued condition census material which later came to the fore was part prescience and perhaps part luck — in any event, the investment returns were nothing short of spectacular. While Pittman lacked the comprehensive coverage of Eliasberg, his eye for future delicacies was stronger, and the Akers' catalogues are every bit as competitive for early United States proof coinage.

74. Garrett, Jeff, and Ron Guth (2006) *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins, 1795–1933*

A foundational work including over 3000 color images, this volume belongs in the library of every United States gold collector. Beyond unleashing the ultra-prolific camera of Tom Mulvaney, the authors have accepted the monumental challenge of finding something interesting to say about *every* United States regular issue and proof gold coin, and have remarkably succeeded. Gold patterns are well covered and a useful adjunct to the standard work by Akers (#90); gold commemoratives are of course catalogued as well. Collector aids including population reports, auction records, and current pricing data are all here. Finally, the authors include a long overdue inventory of the National Numismatic Collection, updating Comparette's work of almost a century ago.

75. B. Max Mehl (1941) *Dunham*

The only Mehl emission to appear on our list (the author informally lobbied for Mehl's *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia*, which finished 114th), this sale crowned Mehl's career, and was in his own words "the realization of a lifelong ambition," as he had long known and admired the Chicago collector William Forrester Dunham. The highlight of the catalogue was an 1804 dollar, accompanied with varied documentation signed by the royalty of American numismatics, names like Chapman, Snowden, Eckfeldt, DuBois, and others. As if that were not enough, the cabinet boasted also an 1822 half eagle, 1841 quarter eagle, 1884 trade dollar, and voluminous amounts of proof gold. An important set of encased postage stamps rounds out the mix in this, Mehl's greatest catalogue.

76. Hibler, Harold, and Charles Kappen (1963) *So-Called Dollars*

Medallic art and history is a potent combination, offering a platform for the preservation of national and local heritage quite unlike any other — visceral, easily reproduced, and far more durable than other media. As such, it was inevitable that the great exposition movement of the nineteenth century would give rise to a host of medallic issues. Public hordes would not be denied their souvenirs, and the commercial interests were more than happy to play their

part. Of the multitude of varieties of dollar-sized medals produced in association with these events, the authors have enumerated over 900 of the most significant, supplying the basic historical and metrological background of each. While not completely comprehensive, this is the best guide on the subject and is rightfully included in the library of every token and medal collector. A recent second edition updates rarity and pricing information, and includes a section of color plates, while the associated deluxe edition is hardbound and fully illustrated in color throughout.

77. Bowers, Q. David (2006) *Obsolete Paper Money Issued by Banks in the United States, 1782-1866*

The National Bank Act of 1863 and subsequent acts effectively removed non-federal currency from circulation and introduced a uniformity of paper money which persists to the present day. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the paper money collector's version of the first United States Mint, commenced operations in 1862 and quickly centralized the business of the nation's paper money. The pre-story, conversely, is spread over a multitude of independent banks, journeyman engravers, persistent counterfeiters, and an alphabet soup of predecessor firms which ultimately formed the American Bank Note Company. Such disparate investigations are outside the hands of most researchers, and we are fortunate that we have a Dave Bowers to put the whole story together. The result is a comprehensive overview of the creation, production, circulation and redemption of obsolete paper money, and along the way are the delightful sideways glances for which Bowers is famous. The most interesting here is the story of the American Bank Note Company archives, not to mention an in-depth view of the Carroll County (NH) bank, from which a great amount of archival material has survived. Combined with a micro view such as Haxby (#50), the Bowers volume will serve the obsolete paper money collector to great advantage.

78. Adams, John W., and Anne E. Bentley (2007) *Comitia Americana and Related Medals*

The epitome of the bibliophilic arts, *Comitia Americana* combines superb research with world-class technical production. The result is one of the best specialized books ever, dedicated to presenting an account of the earliest American medals awarded by Congress, along with several others typically associated with the Comitia series. The story of Jefferson's ambivalence, among others, is related to maximum effect, on thick paper with the most technologically advanced plates (an interesting counterpart to our next entry), all bound in linen. The leatherbound deluxe edition is a wonder all its own; the reader is

referred to *The Asylum* (vol. 26, no. 2) for full detail. Thoroughly footnoted, all the clues are here for the medallic bloodhound to begin searching for the delicacies which have eluded the authors — the gold Daniel Morgan perhaps still residing in the family, or for the more ambitious, the missing pair of gold *Libertas* pieces, likely the most valuable numismatic objects on the planet. For the less ambitious, the book itself is a great discovery on its own!

79. Eckfeldt, Jacob, and William DuBois (1842) *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations Struck Within the Past Century*

“A treatise on coins,” write the authors, “which does not present a picture of them, is but half fitted for its purposes.” Even a decade before the numismatic boom of the 1850s, it was obvious that coin books needed to be picture books. The first chapters of this work concentrate on technical specifications of world gold and silver coinage, a subject near and dear to Eckfeldt and DuBois as assayers of the US Mint. But the real fun starts in Chapter 6, when Joseph Saxton’s steam-powered medal ruling machine is put to work on electrotypes produced from Mint Cabinet specimens, most notably an 1804 dollar. The results were remarkable for the time, especially as Saxton’s contraption automated the entire process. Sixteen plates are included in all, two with American content. Another prize is the frontispiece, an image of the second United States mint, produced using the daguerreotype, electrotypes, and Saxton’s medal ruler — a trio of the latest technology. That one of the first American daguerreotypes was executed by Saxton himself, peering out of the same building, in 1839, only heightens the sense of promise of illustrative science that Eckfeldt and DuBois captured for posterity.

80. Bowers & Merena (1982) *The Celebrated John Adams Collection of United States Large Cents of the Year 1794*

This is a collection and presentation dripping with numismatic history, for Adams pursued 1794s not just by Sheldon varieties but also by provenance, and the older the pedigree, the better! Almost all Sheldon varieties are represented, and more often than not condition census specimens are the order of the day. The catalog is replete with useful biographical information, including several pages on Adams himself, while an overlooked appendix presents brief sketches of over a hundred individuals and firms associated with the 1794s. A hardbound edition includes two photographic plates as well as a list of subscribers to this limited edition of 256 numbered copies. The front cover depicts an engraver at work in the first United States Mint with a cat curled up underneath the engraver’s stool, a bit of “inside” humor, as Adams is an inveterate fan of the feline.

81. Fivaz, Bill, and J. T. Stanton (1990) *The Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties*

From the thoroughly explicated 1794 cent we go to something impossible to delineate — modern coinage struck upon countless dies which are so consistently produced that most are impossible to distinguish. What is a variety collector to do? The Fivaz / Stanton guide is a good start, cataloguing the most interesting and collectible of the modern varieties, and to be sure earlier coinage is represented as well. The title has proved to be popular with variety devotees, and is now split into two volumes and in its fifth edition. Fivaz / Stanton (“FS”) attributions are seen widely throughout the literature and “cherrypicks” are regularly reported in the hobby press and in online forums. The two authors have done much to set the rules of engagement for modern collectors, and so far the direction seems to be persistent.

82. Noyes, William C. (1991) *United States Large Cents, 1816-1839*

“Volume Two” of Noyes picks up the large cent series with the middle dates, following up on his work on the early large cents (#53). Both books were released at the same time, and the formula for the pair is identical — masterful photography with clear explication of the varieties for each date. Condition census data for the middle dates is less established than for the prolifically pursued early dates, but Noyes’ presentation is no less polished. The book is a necessary “go with” for Newcomb’s *United States Copper Cents*, even preferable if the collector desires only a single guide, as variety attribution will be greatly facilitated by Noyes’ oversized photographs.

83. Clapp, George H. (1931) *The United States Cents of the Years 1798-1799*

“The result of eight years of study,” Clapp exhibited a high standard of scholarship, on par with the previously published works of Crosby (cents of 1793), Hays (1794), and Newcomb (1800, 1801, 1802). Davis praises the “painstakingly researched, exquisitely photographed reference” for its accuracy, which Clapp dedicated to Newcomb and to fellow large cent collector Henry C. Hines. Indeed, Denis Loring cites Newcomb as an unnamed collaborator for this work, and it is no surprise that Clapp and Newcomb formally teamed up for their next book on large cents (#99), which covered the years 1795, 1796, 1797, and 1800. Clapp’s scholarship was matched only by his personal large cent collection, a world-class assemblage ultimately donated to the American Numismatic Society.

84. H. Chapman (1907) *Stickney*

Henry Chapman's coming-out party following the conclusion of the Chapman brothers' joint efforts in 1906, *Stickney* was the ultimate "fresh" collection, somewhat akin to the Eliasberg sales many years later. "This celebrated collection has for many years been a mystery, as hardly any one of the present generation had seen anything of it," Chapman wrote in the introduction. Nonetheless, fellow dealers were somewhat clued in, as Chapman noted that "when the news that the sale of the Stickney Collection was in my hands was made public I received many letters of congratulation." Early gold is definitive less the 1822 half eagle, which is compensated by the presence of a Brasher doubloon. The 1804 dollar came directly from the Mint Cabinet to Stickney in 1843 and eventually landed in the Eliasberg collection. The 1794 was "one of the finest dollars of this year sold for many years," while among colonial issues a number of Crosby plate coins are found. Ample patterns and territorials complement the extensive federal series in this, Henry Chapman's greatest solo effort.

85. H. Chapman (1921) *Jenks*

For those who believe that Heritage debuted the phonebook-sized catalogue in the late twentieth century, one need not look further than *Jenks* to prove the opposite. Chapman described the collection as "the most extensive yet offered American Numismatists," and given that Jenks' remainders persisted in Chapman's stock for many years, the catalogue could have been even larger. Among United States issues are found a 1794 dollar, 1797 half, and 1792 half disme, but beyond that the strength of the American content is in the 100-plus lots of patterns, apart from a respectable amount of territorial gold. The bulk of the cabinet, containing 7302 lots sold over eleven days, is primarily foreign. With a whopping 42 plates, the volume was priced at twenty dollars, the equivalent of \$250 today, greatly exceeding the modern Heritage series, which are cover priced at \$50 and usually distributed gratis.

86. American Numismatic Society (1914) *Exhibition of United States and Colonial Coins, 1914*

The best guide to "who owned what" in 1914, this catalogue, with thirty-nine plates, presented an opportunity for the members of the ANS to unveil their collections to the world, echoing the grand medallic exhibition conducted by the ANS four years previous (the "greatest exhibition of medallic art ever," according to Dick Johnson). Including four 1804 dollars, the membership was certainly up to the task. Over twenty prominent numismatists contributed,

and as the catalogue enumerated collections by exhibitor, it is a useful resource for pedigree research. The exhibition was particularly notable for patterns, the descriptions of which run to the extent of 38 pages, including pieces from Woodin, Granberg, Zerbe, Brenner, and the ANS itself, catalogued using numbers from the contemporary Adams-Woodin (1913) pattern reference.

87. *Numisma* (Edouard Frossard) (1877-1891)

Frossard gave up the editorship of Scott's *Coin Collector's Journal* in December 1876, intending "to relinquish, for a time at least, all connection with numismatic publications." The "urgent impertunities of many correspondents" persuaded the reluctant writer otherwise, and so *Numisma* began a long run only a month later, in January 1877. Frossard now had his own platform and quickly set the tone by referring to the *Coin Collector's Journal* as "Scott's Diluted Monthly Pap." Later he accused Scott of using the "printer's devil" as a proofreader, though beyond Scott his liveliest complaints were reserved for Chapman's *Bushnell* catalogue (#57 in our survey), a multiple-installment rant spread over several issues in 1882. The July 1884 number follows up with Frossard's celebrated bibliophilic insult, describing a Chapman catalogue "with margin sufficiently large for corrections." In between the editorial comments is a chatty newsletter offering coins for sale, auction previews and results, want ads, occasional feature articles, and numerous displeasures regarding delicacies that somehow escaped the Mint. Remy Bourne's 1983 reprint of the entire run has happily made this engaging periodical more accessible to modern readers, who might prefer to save their shekels for an original *Bushnell* instead of the original *Numisma*.

88. Bowers & Merena (1987) *Taylor*

A landmark sale for colonial copper, the Taylor catalogue was immediately a reference *de rigueur* for any collector of the 1785-88 state copper series. A necessary companion are the limited-edition photographic plates of the same sale, issued in a handsome purple volume, of which 182 numbered copies were produced. The 23 plates depict, to full effect, hundreds of Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Connecticut state coppers. The *tout ensemble* is in turn a mandatory "go with" item for Maris's *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey*, as the Taylor cabinet included multiple Maris plate coins. One is tempted also to add Crosby's *The Early Coins of America* to our little collection here, and as usual, there is no end to books!

89. Valentine, Daniel W. (1931) *The United States Half Dimes*

Only time and patience can unlock the varieties, and Valentine was already

in business by 1914, when he exhibited a group of half dimes at the ANS (see #86). Seventeen years later this ANS monograph, number 48 in that series, covered die varieties of early, bust, and seated half dimes. Although superseded by Logan and McCloskey's *Federal Half Dimes* (118th in our survey) for early and bust varieties, Valentine remains a core reference for the seated half dime collector. Valentine's personal collection, nearly eighty years since his death, remains a great numismatic mystery. Despite the 47 collotypes included here, the noted half dime variety hunter Stephen Crain has matched but three specimens to the Valentine plates, most notably the mega-coin, a high-grade 1802. Further biographical information is provided in Crain's article "Dr. Daniel Webster Valentine (1863-1932)," published in *The Gobrecht Journal* (March 2008, issue no. 101).

90. Akers, David W. (1975) *United States Gold Patterns*

If patterns are the record of "what might have been," then surely gold patterns are the realization of the coiner's grandest daydreams. In this, the definitive photographic record of United States gold patterns, Akers ably catalogued the John E. Wilkison collection, a cabinet which clearly required much more than a generous checkbook to assemble. Indeed, Akers describes the task as consuming over thirty years of patience and persistence. The author further gathered images from the most important institutional collections in order to present a thorough examination of the subject. The technical production of the book — sumptuous color photography, gilt pages, thick end papers, and a die-impressed cover of the celebrated Judd-1776 — is well paired with the content therein. A final tribute is found in Garrett/Guth (#74), who credit Akers' photographer (Tom Mulvaney) for many of the gold patterns depicted in their *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins*.

91. Gengerke, Martin (1990) *American Numismatic Auctions*

A listing of over 13,000 American numismatic auction catalogues, Gengerke is the bibliophile's bedrock. First issued in 1983, with the eighth and final edition in 1990, Gengerke applied not only his own herculean strength but recruited many bibliophilic brethren who also contributed to the final enumeration. The most obscure firms are all listed, from Coin-Ucopia to Coin-A-Rama to Koin-X-Change, and of course everyone else is in here too, the prolific Elder's 292 sales leading the pack among individual cataloguers. The work serves as a handy companion to the ANS library catalogue, for Gengerke patiently combed the stacks of the institution of record and noted what was present and what was not. Given a choice, one should try to acquire the deluxe edition of Gengerke, which contains a useful 95-page consignor's index to the

entire series. Karl Moulton has separately authored a follow-up, listing auction catalogues from 1990 to 2000, and a glance at the calendar suggests that it is once again time to resume that task.

92. Maris, Edward (1869) *Varieties of the Copper Issues of US Mint of the Year 1794*

When one encounters a long list of books dedicated to a single issue, it is safe to assume that the subject must be 1933 double eagles or 1794 large cents. Maris got the party started in 1869, but unfortunately bears great similarity to Heaton's *A Treatise of the Coinage of the United States Branch Mints* in being more important for what it represents than for its actual content. Bob Schuman, writing in *The Asylum* (vol. 19, no. 3), summed it up: "It has no great functional value. It is not useful for pedigree research. It is not helpful for variety attribution." Davis (#44) points out that the *American Journal of Numismatics* made an identical observation at the time of issue. That aside, Maris inspired generations of subsequent authors to explicate the 1794s more thoroughly, even driving them to substantial obsessions. If this monograph can assume but a sliver of credit for the subsequent works, it is more than a worthy entrant onto our Top 100 list.

93. Sotheby & Co. (1954) *Palace Collections of Egypt* (Farouk)

In the greatest numismatic road trip of all time, Abe Kosoff, John Pittman, and others trekked from the United States to Cairo in search of plunder collected by the boy-king Farouk. Such was the organization of the Egyptian government that the precise terms of sale were unclear even as the American collectors stepped onto their departing planes. What was clear was that Farouk had been raiding the Egyptian treasury in order to fund his collecting addiction, meaning that all manner of goodies were possible for the anxious Americans. For all who dared the rewards were rich — the American portion of the sale was poorly catalogued and the uncertainty of the arrangements substantially impacted the results, which would have been far more spectacular had the sale been held in London or New York. The Judd-1776 hammered at \$3600, the 1913 Liberty nickel at \$3900, while a set of three-dollar gold pieces including 1875 and 1876 proofs brought \$4500. Nearly everything was catalogued in group lots, one lot of 36 pattern dimes selling for a song at \$180. The 1933 double eagle, also in a group lot, was famously pulled from the sale at the last minute. Of the last much ink has been spilled, with much more to come. A mandatory companion to the *Farouk* catalogue are Kosoff's recollections of the sale, which were preserved in *Abe Kosoff Remembers* and also in Bowers' *Abe Kosoff: Dean of Numismatists*.

94. Newcomb, Howard R. (1925) *The United States Cents of the Years 1801-1802-1803*

The annual ANA convention is always a good platform for a book launch, and so Newcomb debuted this effort at the 1925 event in Detroit. *The Numismatist* took care to point out that halftones were eschewed in favor of photographic plates, and that Newcomb had identified 30% more varieties than were previously known for these three dates. The work was further characterized as a labor of love and a “loss leader,” the author losing money on every copy sold. Although a valiant effort, Newcomb stopped short. “If sufficient interest is shown . . . he may be induced to take up the die varieties of other dates in the cent series,” wrote *The Numismatist*, and so the crown of the early large cent kingdom was left upon the shelf for Sheldon to claim some years later.

95. Haseltine (1881) *Haseltine Type Table*

Actually an auction sale of Haseltine’s personal collection, this catalogue is the first significant contribution to the study of die varieties of early quarters, halves, and dollars. By this time early copper varieties were well popularized, giving us some insight into Haseltine — here was a numismatist determined to blaze his own trail. Yet Haseltine did not quite hit the ball out of the park. Consider Maris’s *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey*, issued the same year with a full photographic record of its subject — had Haseltine been similarly able to illustrate his variety sets, this work might today be considered foundational, rather than merely classic. Perhaps that is as it should be, as one early quarter researcher (Steve Tompkins), noting Woodward’s sale of the Randall collection in 1885, suggests that much of Haseltine’s *Type Table* is more deservedly credited to the nineteenth-century collector J. Colvin Randall. Charles Davis presented the same idea earlier in *The Asylum* (vol. 11, no. 4, Fall 1993). Still, one sees what Haseltine left on the table — it is worth noting that the three follow-up works to Haseltine (Beistle, Browning, and Bolender) are all included in our Top 100. In any case, Haseltine serendipitously paves the way for our next entry, a collection squarely built on the shoulders of our numismatic forebears.

96. Heritage (2006) *Reiver*

A collector’s collector, *Reiver* is characterized not by an MS70 checkbook chasing trophy rarities, but rather by patience and an encyclopedic knowledge of early American federal coinage. Reiver specialized in die varieties and die states of copper and silver coinage between 1793 and 1839 and over time built the most complete cabinet of its kind. Though rarities such as an 1804 dollar

are not found, a nearly complete die-variety set of early dollars is, including the unique 1795 BB-29. While the esoterica of die marriages and intermediate die states trumped the crazed pursuit of classic rarities and finest-knowns, this is not to say that Reiver completely ignored condition — indeed, this set of three catalogues presented thousands of pleasing “collector” coins. Paired with the 2002 Logan sale (216th in our survey), collectors of early American silver will be well armed to do battle with the variety zealots on the bourse floors.

97. Rulau, Russell, and George Fuld (1999) *Medallic Portraits of Washington*

Certain numismatic topics demand a complete re-examination every century or so. We are fortunate to be living in the golden age of “round two,” as Bowers revisits Crosby and other works, such as this, come to the fore. “A complete revision of Baker,” according to the introduction: the authors have built upon the 1885 foundation (#47) with countless sale citations, references to private and institutional collections, and a thorough photographic record. Moreover, new Baker numbers are assigned to the host of issues produced since 1885, perhaps the ultimate tribute to the initial work, for few would have quibbled with a new series of “R-F” designations. No doubt the torch will again be taken up in a hundred years by an ambitious newcomer, who will have not one but two ancient texts to preserve.

98. Heath, Laban (1864) *Heath’s Infallible Counterfeit Detector at Sight*

Heath’s *Detector* series bears many similarities to Evans (#58). Both relied on the good graces of friends in the government, both were published in very large numbers, and both come in a tangled web of variants. Playing on the legitimate public fear of counterfeiting, Heath managed to convince any number of government agencies to supply him with actual currency samples (partially defaced) which were collected into thin volumes and accompanied by a discussion of the production of genuine and fake currency. Some editions also included proofs produced from counterfeit plates, allowing for immediate comparison of the authentic and specious articles. The public was wildly receptive, but Heath would have done well to collect his winnings and exit the scene, for much of his success was reversed when he attempted to expand the series into the field of counterfeit bonds. Davis (#44) gives five pages to exploring the variants, while Eric Newman in 1991 contributed the excellent “Heath’s Counterfeit Detectors: An Extraordinarily Successful Comedy of Errors” to *The American Numismatic Association Centennial Anthology*.

99. Clapp, George H., and Howard R. Newcomb (1947) *The United States Cents of the Years 1795, 1796, 1797, 1800*

Clapp and Newcomb, following up on previous individual contributions (#83, #94), teamed up here to fill the remaining holes in their penny board of early large cents. In conjunction with other works, this offering completed by date the comprehensive treatment of early large cent varieties. Sheldon's *Early American Cents* consolidated the whole picture two years later, though sadly Newcomb did not live to see the masterpiece, or even this volume, which was published posthumously by the American Numismatic Society. Clapp's and Newcomb's previous works on early large cents, combined with this, were neatly repackaged in a 1976 reprint, edited by Denis Loring and published by Quarterman.

100. Brunk, Gregory C. (1987) *American and Canadian Counter Marked Coins*

And now for something completely different: while the previous works in our survey generally treat coins, tokens, medals, and paper money in their intended forms, Brunk delivers the story of a completely unintended usage. Merchant countermarks, privately struck on circulating coins and primarily in the nineteenth century, served as an advertising medium for numerous commercial interests. Brunk lists thousands of examples and decodes many, though to be sure quite a few continue to defy attribution. Still, this remains the first and best source for the researcher to consult. Brunk further makes a conscious effort to eliminate the noise, the host of issues with stray letters and digits which are at best historical detritus. A useful companion is number 10 of the ANS Coinage of the Americas Conference Proceedings, from 1994, which contains a lengthy contribution from Dave Bowers on the topic of counterstamped large cents and adds much additional context to the general subject.

A Visit to the Historic Mehl Building

Max B. Spiegel

In an article published in the Fall 1997 issue of the Eastern States Numismatic Association's *Numisma*, Charles Davis wrote about the Star Rare Coin Building in Fort Worth, Texas — once the headquarters of B. Max Mehl. Although numismatic activity had ceased sometime around 1960, the Star Building was again brought to the attention of numismatists in March 1992, when M. N. Daycius Galleries of Fort Worth sent a flyer to members of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society that announced the sale of books and auction catalogues from a “dealer long deceased.” Some members soon noticed that the date of the auction was April 1, 1992 (April Fool's Day), and the auctioneer's name could be pronounced “mendacious”. It became apparent that the auction was a hoax, but not before Armand Champa had hired an agent to go to the address given on the flyer.

Champa's messenger reported back that building, located on 1204 Magnolia, was boarded up and condemned by the city. It was apparent that no auction was to be held on the premises. Hoping to get some value from the special trip to Fort Worth, Champa had numerous photographs taken of the building as it appeared at the time, with an emphasis on the entrance, which featured a Fugio Cent prominently located inside an arch above the door. A few sets of these photographs were subsequently distributed by Champa.

This summer Davis asked if I wanted to take a trip to Fort Worth from my apartment in nearby Dallas (about an hour's drive) to report back on the current state of the Star Building. I readily agreed. Visitors to the building during the mid-1990s reported that it was unoccupied save for numerous rats and homeless people, but the main façade was still intact. Davis reported in his article that several groups had attempted to organize the removal of the sandstone entrance for possible

relocation at the ANA Museum in Colorado Springs. The estimated cost — \$50,000 just to disassemble that part of the building — proved to be the undoing of the noble idea. Davis ended his article with a sobering line: “But unless some definitive action is taken soon, it is probable that the entire building will fall to the wrecking ball.”

As I drove to Fort Worth one hot Sunday afternoon in August, I knew that I could be looking for a building that had long since been demolished. Only five years earlier, in the June 17, 2003, issue of *Numismatic News*, David Lange had written an article about his visit to the building, which was in poor shape at the time. I was hopeful that it was still around and with a flicker of excitement I thought about seeing the once-headquarters of one of the greatest numismatists of the twentieth century. Before long I reached Magnolia Avenue and I kept my eyes peeled for anything that resembled the photographs from Davis’s article. The 1200 block of Magnolia came and went, with nothing but a few dilapidated houses on either side. Just when I thought the trip was a loss, I realized that the street was actually divided into East and West Magnolia Avenue. While I had explored the east side, it was possible that the Star Building was located to the west.

West Magnolia, it turned out, had a much more historic appearance than its eastern counterpart. I passed an old building with a sign that said, “Ft. Worth National Bank”. Several blocks later I saw the Star Building, just as it had appeared in the photographs taken more than fifteen years earlier (Fig. 1). Upon closer inspection I realized that Mehl’s former headquarters was not in the decrepit state reported by visitors in the mid-1990s, but rather had been completely renovated. To my amazement the original façade remained, with the letters “B” and “E” missing from Mehl’s name below the Fugio Cent (Fig. 2). Just as it had appeared when Champa had his photographs taken more than fifteen years ago, the entrance now said: “NUMISMATIC CO. OF TEXAS” with “MAX M HL” before. A clear outline of the two missing letters was visible.

The front door now has the name of the building’s current occupant stenciled on the door: Emily McLaughlin and her practice, West Magnolia Plastic Surgery.¹ At the main entrance are two doors, with a Fugio Cent above the main door and an eagle above the other. Between the

1 “Our Office.” West Magnolia Plastic Surgery. <http://www.mclaughlinmd.com/office.html>



Figure 1. Street view of the renovated B. Max Mehl building.



Figure 2. Closer view of the façade of Mehl's headquarters.

doors are two windows, each of which has a medallion above: one of a star, the other with a head reminiscent of Victory (Fig. 3). The side entrance of Mehl's building is on 1200 South Henderson Street, and each of the double doors had "Historic Mehl Building" stenciled on the glass (Fig. 4). The back of the building appears to have a modern four-story addition (as opposed to the three-story front of the structure), with "Historic Mehl Building" written on the rear door as well.



Figure 3. Front windows at the center of the Mehl building façade.



Figure 4. Glass door at the side entrance of the Star Building.

Several signs identified the area as part of the Fairmount/Southside National Historic District. Most of the buildings in the 1-square-mile area that comprises the district were built around the turn of the twentieth century, according to the neighborhood association's website. When the Star Building was built in 1916 by noted Fort Worth architect

Wiley G. Clarkson, the neighborhood was home to many middle- and upper-class families, with a substantial Jewish population that included the Mehls. The demographics slowly changed; by the 1950s and 1960s the number of low-income residents increased, and many of the commercial structures were abandoned. In 1978 the Fairmount Association was founded by a group of residents who wanted to restore the former grandeur of the neighborhood, and their efforts led to the National Historic District status given to the area in 1990.² Since then, there have been numerous attempts to rehabilitate the historic buildings in the area, including the Star Building.

It was not until recently that the Star Building finally received the attention it so desperately needed. In 2001 four investors formed a partnership called Max Mehl Development LLC. No progress was made until 2005 when two members of that group, Fran McCarthy and Ray Boothe, got to work on the renovation, which was completed in 2007. The \$2.4 million project was not without its setbacks, one of which involved replacing the original windows. Although approved at the December 2005 meeting of the Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission, the modern windows, which were almost identical to the old ones, were later discovered to have an aluminum veneer which does not fit with the building guidelines set by the district in 1990.³ I am unsure whether the current windows were the aluminum-plated ones, or if the developers were forced to replace them.

It was great to see that the former home of B. Max Mehl has been restored to its former grandeur. For nearly a decade there has been talk of renovating the Star Building, but despite several disappointments the once-decrepit structure is now home to a new tenants. Thankfully, its roots as the "Historic Mehl Building" have not been forgotten by its current owner and the Fairmount/Southside National Historic District. The headquarters of one of the greatest American numismatists still stands to be appreciated by numismatists more than 50 years after his death. With the ANA National Money Show scheduled to be in Fort Worth in March 2010, many numismatists will have the opportunity to visit the restored Star Building.

2 Fairmount Southside Historic District. <http://www.historicfairmount.com/default.aspx>

3 McGraw, Dan. "Glass Pains." *Fort Worth Weekly*. <http://www.fwweekly.com/content.asp?article=4620>

Observations on Two Recent Sales

John W. Adams

We have seen some truly wonderful sales of numismatic literature in recent months, with a wealth of rarely-seen material, including some once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. The following remarks can only touch a few of the highlights, with the Chapman brothers providing some of the most interesting.

KOLBE'S TWINLEAF SALE

The Kolbe sale of January 10, 2009, provided a special feast for numismatic bibliophiles. For many, the *summa desiderata* are “plated Chapmans,” of which the sale contained no less than 41 examples, including 21 of the 22 known quarto-size editions. This section of the Kolbe catalogue is prefaced by a photograph of the two Chapman brothers in their study in May 1890 — an image that had not previously been published and one that set the tone most appropriately for the material to follow.

For those bibliophiles who like their plated Chapmans in high condition, there were nine catalogues described as very fine that could also boast original covers. Noteworthy within this group was a 1921 Henderson, a rare item in any condition, but particularly so when it comes “near new . . . original white silk tie at the spine.” For those bibliophiles who focus on content, almost any plated Chapman is worthwhile, but Bushnell, Beckwith, and Hunter are sublime. Bushnell was the most inquiring and most acquisitive of the early collectors of Americana. Dr. Beckwith assembled a set of gem large cents that are complimented in dramatic fashion by S. H. Chapman’s photography, and Hunter brought together one of the best-ever collections of Indian peace medals, including some rarities that have not appeared since his sale in 1920.

This Kolbe auction gives large cent collectors their own private banquet. Present for sale are all of the great rarities including 1881

Andrews, 1870 Maris, the 1923 edition of S. H. Chapman on 1794 large cents, and presentation copies both of Clapp on 1798-1799 and Newcomb on 1801-1802-1803.

Bibliophiles who covet plate catalogues in general had what might be deemed a surfeit. In addition to auctions of such famous collectors as Parmalee, Woodside, and Malcolm Jackson, there were four plated Elders, all of which are rarities. Even rarer are Woodward sales #92 and #95, both of which were present in the plate editions. Finally, there was one seemingly unique item, a copy of C. E. Fraser's auction of March 27, 1879, with two heliotype plates. The first (and last) sale of this auctioneer, this marks the only appearance of an example with plates.

The sale contains some truly "special editions." In this category, we note the large-paper Hickcox, one of five issued and three currently known. Kolbe's description, in which he explains the importance of the contents to which he adds biographical notes, is reference material in itself. Another very special edition is the large paper copy of the important Levick sale of 1865. Kolbe speculates that this item may be unique in its bound format and is very likely the self-same copy offered as the last lot in the Levick auction.

For those who collect content as opposed to plates or special editions, there are three lots of special significance. The first, in order of appearance, is a volume made up by Charles I. Bushnell. He extracted the two earliest monographs on US medals — one by James Mease (1834) and one by J. Francis Fisher (1837), both published in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society* — and had these bound together. The extraction would be more desecration than achievement, were it not then used by Bushnell to enter his own holdings of the medals listed by the two authors, as well as other snippets of information.

The second notable item of content is a clamshell case holding eighteen articles written by M. A. Stickney and published in the *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute*, 1859 to 1863. Never before referenced in numismatic circles, these articles feature a thorough review of our colonial coinage. Along with Crosby's *magnum opus* published in 1875 and Q. David Bowers' equally superb work published in 2009, this new corpus of Stickney's writings is one of the milestones in an important segment of US numismatic research.

The third lot of special content is yet another item out of the library of Charles Bushnell, his copy of *The Defence of the Conduct of People of Ireland*, written anonymously by Jonathan Swift. This important tract provides contemporary insights into the Hibernia coinage — the low esteem in which it was held in Great Britain (particularly Ireland) with the consequent export of this coinage to colonial America. Written on the fly-leaf, presumably by Bushnell, were the words: “Very very rare — do not sell.”

All in all, Kolbe sale #107 is a cornucopia that will inevitably become a landmark in the hobby.

AN UNUSUAL NEWCOMER

Browsing through the unsold lots in David Fanning’s recent sale, I came across one that I had not noticed: a 1914 fixed-price list published by S. H. Chapman. This item, deaccessioned by the Western Reserve Historical Society, is a covered, 30-page booklet that is not listed either by Adams or by Bourne. The rich content contained in the fixed-price list could be expected to have guaranteed survival. Thus, its apparent rarity suggests that Chapman was experimenting with this means of distribution, and the results must have been sufficiently disappointing that the experiment was not often (or ever) repeated.

“Rich content” is not a casual appraisal. Offered within the 30 pages were:

- Colonials: twenty items of Massachusetts silver including a new variety of Pine Tree shilling, a Higley threepence with broad axe reverse, a *Liber Natus* “one of only 6 to 8 known”, and an Immune Columbia bronze proof.
- United States silver: 1794 dollar; Gobrecht 1854 (3) dollars in proof; 1796 and 1797 (2) half dollars; 1796 quarter in proof; rare variety of 1807 quarter in MS; 1794, 1796 (2), and 1838 half dimes, etc.
- United States copper: cents including 1793 13-L, 1794 Hays 2 (in MS), gem 1795, MS 1805, 1821, proof 1841; half cents including MS 1795, 1796 plus six proofs.

It is possible that this array of material represented unsold lots from an earlier auction, but a quick search did not reveal a fit. Both Chapman

brothers were well-capitalized dealers, typically carrying an inventory that was large by contemporary standards. From the rarity of the fixed price lists, one can infer that the inventory was distributed either by consignments to favored collectors or by retail in their Philadelphia store.

The preface to this 1914 fixed-price list gives descriptions of various grades including Proof, Uncirculated, Extremely Fine, Very Fine, Fine, Very Good, Fair, and Poor. What caught our attention was this statement: "I published these grades photographically and marked on a plate in my Jewett sale catalog in 1909." Sure enough, turning to Plate XII of the Jewett catalogue, there are ten lots of American silver, out of twenty lots depicted on the plate, marked with grades ranging from Proof to Good. This feature is not noted in the preface to the Jewett catalogue nor are we aware of any other reference to it. Suffice to say that the modern grading services would not be pleased to see these century-old standards exhumed. Chapman's "Ex. F." would be MS something-or-other today and, in like vein, an encapsulated MS 60 or MS 62 would not have been considered uncirculated by our early collectors. We all know that grading practices have undergone devaluation, but thanks to the Jewett catalogue (and thanks to the 1914 fixed-price list), seeing is believing.

Al Boka hopes that NBS members (and anyone else interested) might help in compiling biographical information on notable collectors of US large cents and half cents. The current listing can be found at his site: <http://www.1794largecents.com>
Suggestions, additions, corrections, etc. are invited!

News from the ANA Library

RyAnne Scott

The American Numismatic Association Library's greatest virtue is the ability to deliver information into numismatists' hands. For the price of media mail shipping, hobbyists and bibliophiles can peruse prohibitively expensive or hard-to-find volumes for up to a twelve-week period.

The library's patrons live from coast to coast, and most rarely get the chance to visit the two-floor ANA Library. With this in mind, my primarily goal since becoming Library Manager this past June is to improve access to library information via the Internet.

This mission has taken many forms. One way is expanding offerings available in our online catalogue. Since last summer, the library staff has added more than 1,000 new holdings, including new and classic numismatic books as well as periodicals. Within the next year, a greatly expanded listing of periodicals and auction-catalogue holdings should be available online as well.

The library web pages recently got a dramatic makeover, with new features and services. Library users can access this area of our site (www.money.org) by scrolling over the "Explore the World of Money" tab and selecting "library."

One feature I hope will be of great interest to NBS members is the "Suggest a Book" area. It is the perfect venue for bibliophiles to suggest books and other materials they would like added to the collection. Personally, I value this input greatly and would use it to search for sought-after materials and guide future purchases.

However, the drive to expand online offerings has just begun. In the coming year, the library plans to unveil a numismatic literature guide, offer downloadable content, and give hobbyists access to their favorite numismatic authors. In doing so, we hope to bridge the distance between numismatists across the country to encourage and foster an active dialogue among hobbyists.

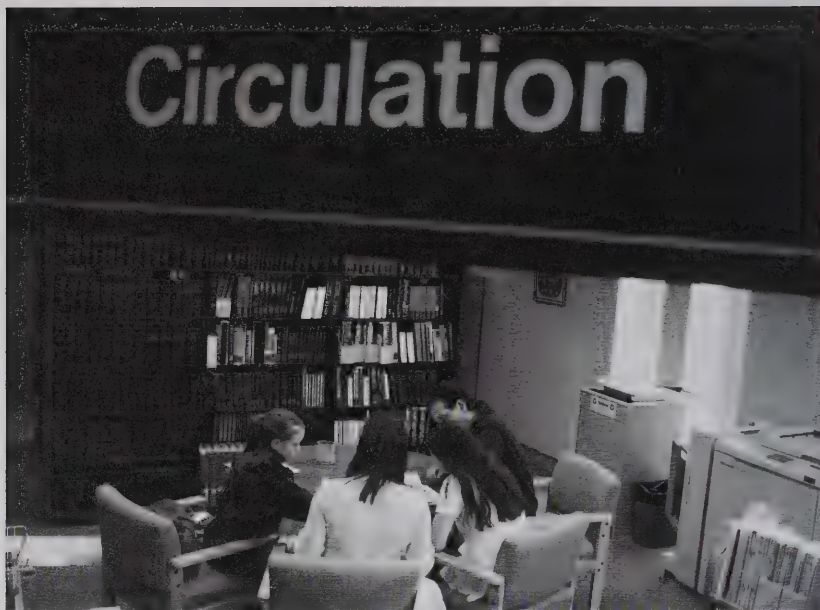


Figure 1. Inside the ANA Library.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The ANA Library appreciates the numismatic community's generous donations. Recently, the library has received a number of interesting gifts, which are now stored in the Rare Book Room and available for viewing by appointment.

One such donation, *Braunschweig-lüneburgische chronica*, is a three-volume history of German nobility published in 1772, which features descriptions and illustrations of their coins and medals (ANA Library No. JG98.B72R4 V.1-3). The set, donated by Larry and Ira Goldberg, is only available in twelve other US libraries. "It's kind of difficult to cite from a book no one else has," said Ira Goldberg. "We thought this book would be better off with the library."

Other such donations came from Richard Coffin of Augusta, Maine, and Robert Christie of Carmel, NY. While sorting through boxes of his father's things, Coffin found a veritable hoard of more than 400 issues of *The Numismatist*, dating from 1895 to 1936.

Christie decided to provide the library with copies of the *American Journal of Numismatics* and the *Bulletin of the American Numismatic*

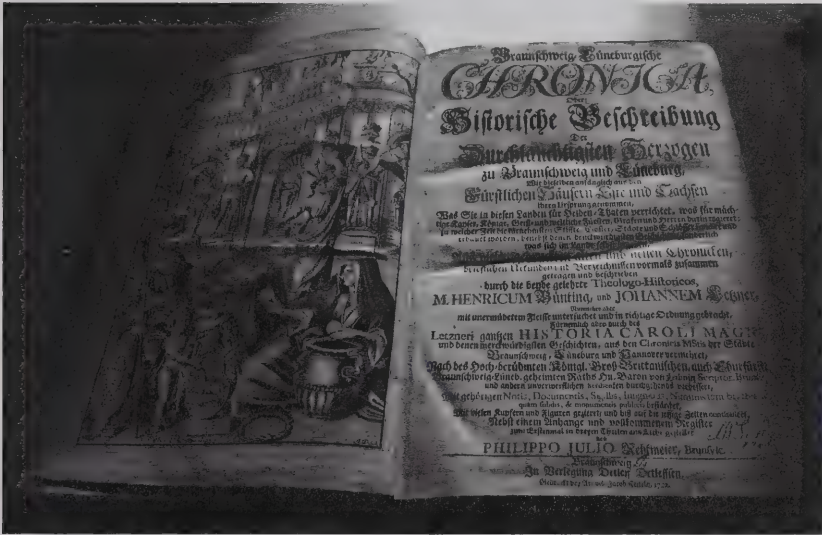


Figure 2. The Braunschweig-lüneburgische chronica.

and Archaeological Society, including complete, twelve-issue sets of volume 1, from 1866, and volume 4, from 1869.

The following is small sampling of new ANA library books, which are available to borrow:

Augsberger, Leonard. *Treasure in the Cellar: A Tale of Gold in Depression-Era Baltimore*. Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 2008. (ANA Library No. CC55.A9)

Bowers, Q David (ed.). 2009. *The Official Red Book of United States Pattern Coins. Experimental and Trial Pieces*. 10th Edition. Atlanta, GA: Whitman Publishing, LLC. (GA90.J8 2009)

Fricke, Pierre. *Collecting Confederate Paper Money: Field Edition 2008*. New York: Smythe, 2008. (US60.F7 2008)

Holabird, Fred N. *The Rush for the Gold! America's Gold Rushes* (Summer 2008). Reno: Fred N. Holabird, 2008. (GB70.R8)

Manville, Harrington E. *Numismatic Guide to British and Irish Printed Books, 1600–2004*. London: Spink & Son, 2005. (AA50.M3n)

Moran, Michael F. *Striking Change: The Great Artistic Collaboration of Theodore Roosevelt and Augustus Saint-Gaudens*. Atlanta: Whitman Publishing, 2008.

- Newman, Eric P. *The Early Paper Money of America*. Iola: Krause Publications, 2008. (US40.N4e 2008)
- Newman, Eric P. *United States Fugio Copper Coinage of 1787*. Atlanta: Whitman Publishing, 2008. (GB30.N4a)
- Nipper, Will. In *Yankee Doodle's Pocket: The Myth, Magic and Politics of Money in Early America*. Conway: Brownstone Press, 2008. (GA40.N5)
- Tompkins, Steve M. *Early United States Quarters, 1796-1838*. Sequim: Steve M. Tompkins & Destni, Inc., 2008. (GB24.T6)

Help Promote the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Howard A. Daniel III sets up a club table to represent the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (and the International Bank Note Society, Numismatics International, and the Philippines Collectors Forum) at both of the annual American Numismatic Association events and at the International Paper Money Show.

The Asylum and NBS membership applications are given to numismatists interested in the society from the table. Journals and applications for the other societies are also given out.

There are also world bank notes and world coins to give to young and new numismatists in a packet which includes a consolidated membership application form for all four groups. References are given to numismatists but especially to teachers and scout counselors, for them to use with their students and scouts.

Howard always needs volunteers to staff the table and needs your unwanted references, world banknotes, and/or world coins. Please contact Howard at hadaniel3@msn.com to make the donation arrangements. The best method to get them to him is to take them to one of the three shows, otherwise, you can mail them to him. Howard can also send a thank-you letter to each donor which will document their donation for tax purposes.

Candidates for the 2009 Election of Officers for the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

This summer the Numismatic Bibliomania Society will once again conduct its biennial election, and the ballots are distributed with this issue. As the NBS continues to grow, there are some new faces in this year's slate, and new members who will appreciate learning more about the "old hands"; the candidates' personal statements here will introduce them to the members. Ballots must be received by July 1, 2009.

In addition, there is another insert with a proposed amendment to the by-laws. In order to reflect the growing membership of the NBS and take advantage of fresh perspectives and new energies, without losing the services of the more experienced, it is proposed to increase the size of the Board of Trustees from six to nine. The insert in this issue provides the necessary notification to the membership, so that the proposal may be voted on at the NBS Annual Meeting, which will be held at the ANA World's Fair of Money on August 6, 2009.

The candidates for the various positions are as follows:

- *President*: Dan Hamelberg
- *Vice President*: Dan Freidus
- *Secretary/Treasurer*: David Sundman
- *Board of Trustees*: Leonard Augsburger, Frank Campbell, David Fanning, W. David Perkins, Marc Ricard, P. Scott Rubin

The candidates who have submitted statements are listed alphabetically below.

Leonard Augsburger (Board)

Leonard Augsburger is a frequent author and speaker in the field of American numismatics. With co-author Joel Orosz, he delivered the 2008 Groves Forum lecture at the American Numismatic Society on the subject of Frank H. Stewart and the first United States Mint, a

work currently in manuscript with publication by Whitman planned for 2010. Augsburger conducted the Top One Hundred Greatest Works of American Numismatic Literature survey for the NBS and is presenting results this year in *The Asylum*. He is the author of *Treasure in the Cellar: The Story of the Baltimore Gold Hoard*, published by the Maryland Historical Society in 2008. His work has appeared periodically in *The Asylum*, on varied topics such as the ANS Chapman correspondence, numismatic research methods, and the National Numismatic Collection. Augsburger delivered presentations at the NBS ANA meetings in 2003 and 2007, covering the status of current research projects. He serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Liberty Seated Collector's Club and has been employed as a software engineer in the telecommunications field since 1987. He is a member of the ANS, ANA, NLG, NBS, LSCC, EAC, MCA, C4OA, and the Chicago Coin Club.

Francis D. Campbell (Board)

During my many years of service in the Library of the American Numismatic Society, I had the opportunity to work with perhaps the world's greatest collection of numismatic literature. I also had the opportunity to work closely with those whose primary interest was the literature itself, with many of the great collectors who had contracted the condition we know as bibliomania, and with the major firms involved in the sale of numismatic literature. On any given day, I might have had the enviable duty of working with the ledgers of Virgil Brand, the business correspondence of the Chapman firm, the archives of the Garrett and Norweb families, or those of the New Netherlands Coin Company. I was privileged to see incorporated into the ANS library either part or all of the library collections formerly belonging to Edward T. Newell, David M. Bullowa, George C. Miles, Charles K. Panish, Armand Champa, Harry W. Bass, Jr., John Adams, Herman Miller, and Charles A. Hersch. I would hope that my experience would enable me to contribute meaningfully as a Board Member of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.

David Fanning (Board)

David F. Fanning is a numismatic bookseller from Columbus, Ohio. He holds a PhD in English from the Ohio State University, and is a member of the ANA, ANS, C4, EAC, MCA, NBS and several other numis-

matic organizations. Although he deals in numismatic literature from all times and places, the focus of his own research is on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century coins and medals relating to the Americas.

Dan Hamelberg (President)

I have been a serious collector of numismatic literature since George Kolbe's sale of Lester Merkin's library. Did I get hooked. Adventures with Armand followed for many years. A few hoards later (Jack Collins, the Providence collection, Keith Kellman, Jeff Peck, Dan Freidus, and others) and a few major sales later (Katen, Champa, Ford) along with much serious searching and here I am with over 1,200 linear feet of bookshelf space and still counting. I am seriously out of control (just ask my wife) but a perfect candidate for the NBS. The NBS has the greatest fraternity of collectors I have ever met. I started with coins as most do, but the books and the people who come with them are more interesting. I am currently the lucky curator of many special books, and welcome the opportunity to share. With the E-Sylum and many individual requests for information, I have been lucky to share my library with others. The backbone of the NBS is in the sharing of information. I am for it.

W. David Perkins (Board)

W. David Perkins is a long time collector and researcher of the early United States silver dollars (1794-1803). Dave also collects Civil War store cards, tokens, and numismatic literature, including books, catalogues, and documents pertaining to the great early silver dollar collections and collectors. His interest in Civil War store cards started with a discovery that his great-great-grandfather issued two Detroit, Michigan, Civil War tokens in 1863.

Dave was a consultant to Bowers & Merena in the cataloging of the Eliasberg early silver dollars and has catalogued and consulted on early dollars for a number of numismatic auction firms. He has spoken on the early dollars at a number of ANA Numismatic Theatres and has taught a class on the dollars at the ANA Summer Conference. Dave was a major contributor to and wrote the introduction for Jules Reiver's book *The United States Early Silver Dollars, 1794 to 1803*. Dave has also been a contributor to a number of other books over the years, including contributing a large number of plate photos for the recently published second edition of the Hibler and Kappen book, *So-Called Dollars*.

Dave is a past Secretary / Treasurer of NBS. In addition to NBS, Dave is a member of numerous numismatic organizations and clubs including the ANA, ANS, JRCS (LM), NLG, EAC, TAMS, CWTS (LM), and others. Dave is an officer and is Treasurer of the John Reich Collector's Society. He has authored dozens of articles for a wide variety of publications including the *The Asylum*, *John Reich Journal*, *Coin World*, *TAMS Journal*, *Civil War Token Journal*, *The Gobrecht Journal*, *NOW News*, and *Talkin' Tokens*. His articles have won literary awards from NLG, JRCS, CWTS, TAMS, NTCA, and NOW.

Marc Ricard (Board)

I joined the ANA in 1972 as a junior with the view to follow in my father's footsteps. I never caught the coin collecting bug, but at age 16, I visited my first used bookstore and fell in love! I began to form a large collection of religious material, including an extensive collection of New Testaments in various exotic languages of the world. One afternoon in 1985, I wandered into my father's library and opened a copy of Laskey's book on Napoleonic Medals. From that point forward, I began collecting any numismatic literature I could get my hands on.

Over the past twenty or so years I have developed a collection of books and catalogues on ancient, world, and US coins, tokens, medals, and currency. With nearly 5000 items now in hand, I have decided to concentrate henceforth on United States and Canadian numismatic literature. After reading Len's compilation of the 100 Greatest, I realized that I don't have some of the critical rarities that I should.

I am absolutely convinced that the field of numismatic literature is in a period of change. I dined with several Young Numismatists at the ANA banquet in Baltimore and shared a somewhat rare 1579 first edition of Occo's *Imperatorum Romanorum* with them. Their response was enthusiastic to say the least, which was very encouraging for future synergies between the collecting of numismatics and its related literature.

It would be my hope in the future to contribute my efforts and resources to a program encouraging and involving Young Numismatists in the collecting and exhibiting of numismatic literature. They are the future of collecting, and by sharing with their key members the important role that literature plays in the hobby, I think we can make a huge impact.

P. Scott Rubin (Board)

I have collected coins for over 50 years, since the age of seven, I have collected numismatic literature for over 40 years. I am a past President of NBS and a board member since the late 1980s. My main collecting interest is US auction catalogues, of which I have over eight thousand.

I have written articles about coins or literature for the *Gobrecht Journal*, *The Asylum*, *The Numismatist*, and *Coin World*. I have presented talks at ANS and ANA on many different topics. I have also contributed information to many numismatic books such as the *Red Book*.

David Sundman (Secretary/Treasurer)

David Sundman, President of the Littleton Coin Company of Littleton, New Hampshire, first learned about the fascinations of the rare coin field during his grade school years in the mid-1950s. He spent many afternoons after school and many Saturdays and each summer vacation working for his father, stamp and coin dealer Maynard Sundman. Maynard and his wife Fannie Sundman had founded the family firm, Littleton Stamp Company in 1945, and soon branched out into numismatics in 1949. David Sundman enjoyed both philately and numismatics, and naturally developed a strong interest in history. He graduated from Gettysburg College with a BA in History in 1970, and several years later rejoined the family firm in 1972, by then employing more than a hundred. Today the firm is staffed with 342 full-time associates and is a major employer in the town of Littleton.

A lifetime member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), Sundman celebrated his 28th year of ANA membership in 2007. In 2001, he received the ANA's Glenn Smedley Memorial Award, recognizing those who have worked to better the association. In 2003, he received the ANA's Medal of Merit for his active support of the Association's educational and promotional efforts. In addition, Mr. Sundman has received the ANA's top recruiter award five times.

A member of the American Numismatic Society since 1984, Sundman recently became a Life Fellow. He also is a member of the Professional Numismatists Guild, and received their Significant Contribution Award in 2001 for his consumer protection efforts. Sundman joined the Numismatic Bibliomania Society in 1982, and is now a Life Member.

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The Asylum (ISSN 1552-1931) is published quarterly. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor by e-mail or on CD. Authors, please put your name(s) on all submitted material.

All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

NBS Membership: in the United States, \$15.00 annual dues for standard mail, \$20.00 annual dues for first-class mail; outside the United States, \$25.00. Members receive all available issues of the current volume. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

David F. Fanning

Numismatic Literature

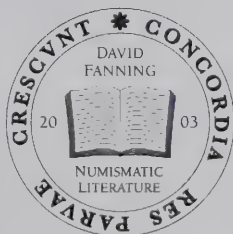
Auction II — June 4, 2009

We are conducting our second mail-bid auction, which will close on **June 4**. The sale includes works spanning six centuries and several languages on ancient, medieval, foreign and U.S. numismatics, with many rare and important works. Selected highlights include:

- All three original French editions of Charpentier on the medals of Louis XIV, including the rare first issue with the suppressed preface
- 18th-century Lima mint ordinances
- Meili on the paper money of Brazil
- A 1709 Act of Queen Anne, regulating the value of coins in America
- An 1875 Crosby in a Lyman Low binding
- Correspondence between Tom Elder and Leonard Holland
- Groux's 1856 *Prospectus*
- A set of Nagy plates of New Jersey coppers
- Newcomer collection photographs and negatives
- The fabled first printing of *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*
- J. Francis Fisher's 1837 "Description of American Medals"
- A presentation Eidlitz on architectural medals
- A substantial run of the *Numismatic Circular*
- A plated Jenks in the original binding
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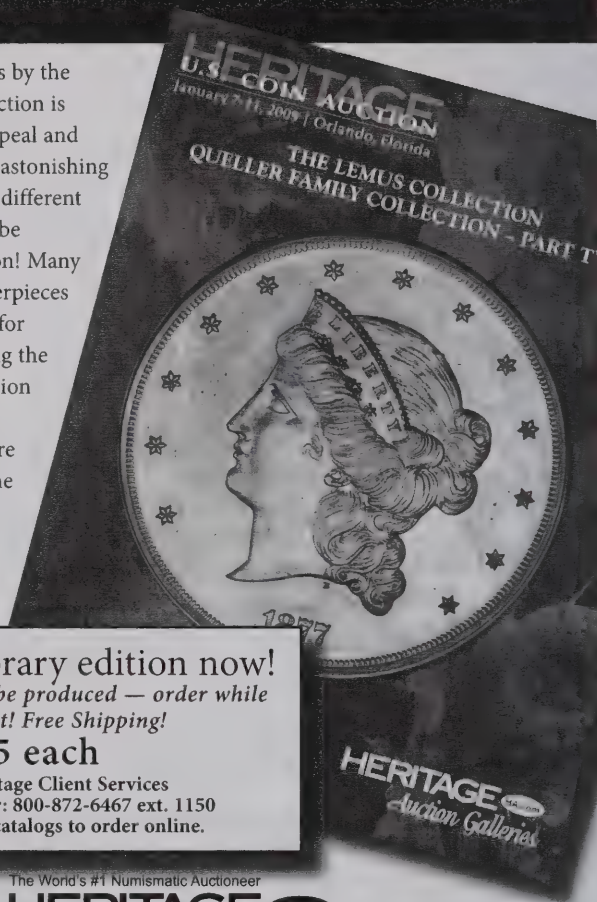
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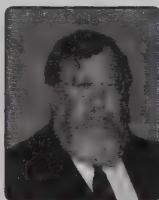
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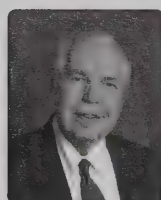
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IF NATURE HAS MADE ANY ONE
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AS LONG AS HE KEEPS IT TO HIMSELF;
BUT THE MOMENT IT IS DIVULGED, IT
FORCES ITSELF INTO THE POSSESSION
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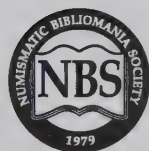
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Front cover: A detail in the 1517 book *Illustrium Imagines* showing a medallion-like portrait of Julia Agrippina ("Agrippina the Younger"): sister of Caligula, wife of Claudius, and mother of Nero. (Photo credit: American Numismatic Association / Douglas A. Mudd)



The One Hundred Greatest Items of United States Numismatic Literature: A Survey of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, Part 2

Leonard Augsburger

Continuing from Part 1 of this article, published in Volume 27 Number 1 of *The Asylum*, the rest of our survey of the hundred greatest works of United States numismatic literature is presented here. Of the top 100, numbers 41 to 100 are in the part previously published; here are the highest scorers, the top 40 works in our survey.

To summarize the nature of this survey again, at the 2007 American Numismatic Association Convention, NBS President John Adams proposed that the NBS conduct a survey of the greatest literature about United States numismatics. A candidate list of approximately four hundred items was published in the Fall 2007 issue of *The Asylum*. Readers were invited to suggest additional candidates, these were added, and a final ballot was distributed to the membership. Sixty ballots were returned by NBS members, who numbered the top one hundred items from one (highest) to one hundred. One hundred points were awarded for a first-place vote, ninety-nine for second place, and so on. An Excel spreadsheet was used to record and add the votes. No adjustments have been made to the resulting totals — this survey thus reflects the collective opinion of the voters.

1. Breen, Walter (1988) *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*

Revered and reviled, Breen's *magnum opus* remains the first reference of choice for American numismatists. Although justifiably maligned for technical faults and lack of supporting documentation, Breen's breadth is staggering. Nowhere else is so much information packed into a single volume. Pre-federal, federal, territorial, commemorative, it is all here. Allowed only one book in an American numismatic library, this would be the expected choice. With copies

on the secondary market selling for hundreds of dollars and no competitors in sight, this reference will endure as the standard comprehensive guide for the foreseeable future.

2. Crosby, Sylvester S. (1875) *The Early Coins of America*

If Breen is one bookend of American numismatics, Crosby is surely the other. In 1875, Crosby had not even the use of a telephone to aid his research. On the other hand, he had access to the great collectors and collections of yore, among them Bushnell, Stickney, Parmelee, Appleton, Maris, and others, all giants on the nineteenth-century American numismatic scene. Crosby's dive into the primary source documentation surrounding colonial issues is beyond remarkable, particularly in light of the lack of modern bibliographic resources. Coupled with his observant technical eye and capable cataloguing, this work is properly described by Davis as "the masterpiece of nineteenth century numismatic literature."

3. *The Numismatist* (1888-date)

The standard-bearer of the American numismatic scene, the monthly organ of the American Numismatic Association contains much data found nowhere else. Although the quality and quantity of research has varied through the years, a full run of this periodical remains required for the advanced numismatic library, especially for the biographical information contained therein. The first six volumes are akin to the holy grail among numismatic bibliophiles, so much so that even the reprint edition is now readily convertible into a small group of Franklins. For the purist, the Franklins will have to be dismissed in favor of Chase in order to acquire the original. A companion volume by Q. David Bowers, *The ANA Centennial History* (#69), published in 1991, offers additional commentary on this series.

4. Yeoman, R. S. (1946-date) *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (*Red Book*)

Hands down the biggest-selling numismatic book of all time, 22 million copies and counting, this annual valuation guide far outshines its successful predecessors, Mehl's *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia* and Raymond's *Standard Catalog of United States Coins*. The signature hardbound red cover was the most powerful brand in American numismatics even before Whitman began expanding the *Red Book* series to include guides of all flavors, even a guide dedicated to *Red Book* collecting itself. Whitman has further enhanced the *Red Book* with lovely color photography and a host of binding choices, of which the spiral-bound hardcover is this writer's favored version for working purposes.

5. Sheldon, William H., Dorothy Paschal, and Walter Breen (1958)
Penny Whimsy

The only work on our list which essentially appears twice, *Penny Whimsy* represents an incremental update to Sheldon's groundbreaking *Early American Cents* (#16), which covered large cents of the years 1793 to 1814. In this edition Sheldon added few varieties, but reworked valuations and condition censuses. *Early American Cents* introduced the 70-point grading scale, a "scientific" approach to pricing in which valuations were assumed to adhere to a fixed multiple (set according to condition) of a basal value. Though updated by Sheldon in *Penny Whimsy*, the modern market has rendered such a concept useless. Still, this is far outweighed by the strength of Sheldon's variety attributions, which half a century later remain the standard.

6. Stack's (2003-07) *Ford*, parts 1-21

Whatever Ford's controversies, his name is permanently cemented on this, the greatest series of auction catalogues in American numismatic history. Eschewing in its entirety federal coinage, the great focus of American numismatic commercial activity, Ford served up a challenge to the Stack's cataloguing team which was executed in a tradition befitting this distinguished New York auction house. Several of this series immediately became standard references for their respective contents. Many of Ford's secrets were finally revealed in this four-year eruption of desiderata, and in retrospect no one should have been the least bit surprised. Of course, Ford being Ford, rumors of what delicacies might still remain in the cabinet will no doubt persist for a long time.

7. *Coin World* (1960-date)

With Dick Johnson at the editorial helm, Sidney (Ohio) Printing and Publishing launched the first weekly numismatic publication in 1960. Sidney was no stranger to the demands of a weekly collectibles publication, as they were already printing nearly 70,000 copies per week of *Linn's Stamp News*. Within a few months the publication filled 40 or more large-format pages each week, with countless vendors hawking 1960 small-date cents, uncirculated rolls of recent issues, and even more 1960 small-date cents. Amid the lurid large type pushing the latest Mint product, *Coin World* included ANA and club news, feature columns, and up-to-date pricing information in the Trends section. Nearly fifty years later the publication survives, with a recent facelift incorporating slick paper and full-color production.

8. Bowers & Merena (1979-81) *Garrett*, parts 1-4

The wide availability of this set of four catalogues masks its true bibliographic

value. Beyond the usual high standard of cataloguing expected from a Bowers & Merena presentation of this era, 80 color plates nicely compete with the all-color presentations now taken for granted (which debuted only recently, with the Bowers & Merena 2003 ANA sale). The sale contents are magnificent, including two Brasher doubloons, 1792 pattern coinage, 1804 dollar, Diplomatic medal, Washington Peace Medal, Western gold including Humbert's personal 1852/1 \$20, Washingtonia, and substantial proof gold, much of it directly from the mint. Like the Norweb and Clapp/Eliasberg collections, *Garrett* was formed over a long period of time by patient and careful numismatists. Ford, with acquisitions *en masse* from F. C. C. Boyd and others, is arguably in the same class; truly, there is no substitute for time when assembling a world-class collection. Along with the Garrett family archives at the ANS, this easily acquired set of catalogues presents not only a great collection, but great research potential as well.

9. Judd, J. Hewitt (1959) *United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces*

A refresh of the Adams-Woodin (#40) work from 1913, Judd did everything right. Starting with Adams' own notebooks in the ANS, Judd further consulted hundreds of auction catalogues in search of corrections, unlisted material, and other updates to Adams-Woodin. Institutional collections also ranked high on Judd's target list, not to mention Judd's personal network of collectors and dealers. Finally, a young Walter Breen was enlisted to scope out the National Archives, and as one reads the first edition of *Judd*, it is clear that numerous portions of the text are derived from Breen's research. With the tenth edition now in full color, Q. David Bowers and Saul Teichman continue to carry the torch, which has been elevated by Whitman to *Red Book* series status. Adding fuel to the fire is recent publicity surrounding the sale of a \$30 million pattern collection, and today the Judd reference is as popular as ever. A mandatory companion is free — the uspatterns.com website, which complements much of the information in Judd.

10. Bowers & Merena (1982, 1996, 1997) *Eliasberg*, parts 1-3

"The only complete United States collection ever formed," the Eliasberg collection has defended its title well despite the objections of countless wags (no 1870-S half dime, missing varieties, etc.). Sold over fifteen years, with gold appearing in 1982 and the remainder in 1996 and 1997, the latter two catalogues necessarily enjoyed better technological production, though the first remains a core reference for gold collectors. All three are required for condition census discussions, as many such debates could rightfully begin with the question "What was in Eliasberg?" Indeed, it is the aspect of "finest knowns" that

distinguishes Eliasberg almost more than its universal breadth of federal coinage. Put together, this is a feat that will not be again accomplished, although specialized collections will occasionally appear which rival their respective counterparts in the Eliasberg cabinet.

11. *American Journal of Numismatics*, first series (1866-1924)

Predating *The Numismatist* (#3) by 22 years, the *AJN* is sometimes overlooked as the journal of record for the post-Civil War period. Confusing the issue somewhat is the chronology of the ANS publications. In 1920 the ANS began a series of specialized Numismatic Notes and Monographs which survives to this today, a recent installment (no. 167 in the series) on the topic of John Law and the Mississippi system being contributed by our own John Adams. In 1924, the *AJN* closed shop in order to focus more intently on the Notes series. The ANS reinstituted the *AJN* in 1989 with the launch of the second series of *AJN* (#105 in our survey), an annual peer-reviewed volume with occasional American content that consistently achieves a high standard. Unlike *The Numismatist*, the first volume of the first series isn't the most desired — that honor goes to the third volume, which contains one of the earliest photographic plates in American numismatics, the cents of 1793, credited to Levick and Crosby (this plate is discussed in detail in *America's Large Cent*, ANS COAC Proceedings 12). The earliest known photograph of the first Mint is also plated in volume 3.

12. Taxay, Don (1966) *The U.S. Mint and Coinage*

The U.S. Mint and Coinage stands alone in the hall of American numismatic literature, viewing numismatic science through a prism found nowhere else. It cares not a whit for the worth of a coin, and even less about the dealers and collectors who pursue them. Instead, Taxay views the corpus of the mint through a unique, multi-faceted perspective — of artistry, technology, and economic history. While Vermeule concentrated on numismatic art and Carothers on economic history, Taxay went further, and the result is the standard account of evolving technology within the US Mint, explaining not only what the Mint did, but why and how it did it. The entire presentation is immersed in a profound understanding of the archival literature, with extensive quotes and citations of original documents. No less than the Chief Engraver of the Mint endorsed Taxay's tome, noting that "all of us who share an interest in our nation's coinage, from its faltering beginnings up to the present, are indebted to Don Taxay."

13. Betts, Charles Wyllys (1894) *American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals*

"Medals are original documents in metal," notes the preface of this book. Thus, the more than 600 medals catalogued here serve as tangible evidence of the American experience from the sixteenth century to the eighteenth. The beginnings are humble, for America remained unhonored in medallic form until well after the age of Columbus, surprisingly unable to compete with lesser European subjects. Even then, the first allusion, in 1556, is merely set within the context of Spanish hegemony. The end, of course, gets better for the Americans, as a host of issues extol the Independence of 1776. In between, Betts describes everything from Admiral Vernons to Proclamations to Indian Peace Medals, a comprehensive European view of American history for the period covered. Editorial notes prepared after Betts' death by William Marvin and Lyman Low add useful citations of the *AJN* (#11) and other sources. Betts has only occasional illustrations — an updated version with substantial photography would be a thoroughly welcome addition to the literature (Davis notes additional photo illustrations in the 1972 Quartermaster reprint). As it is, Betts remains the greatest work solely dedicated to medals in the library of the American medal collector.

14. Bowers, Q. David (1979) *The History of United States Coinage As Illustrated by the Garrett Collection*

This is the first (and greatest, according to our survey) of Bowers' companion volumes prepared for the premier sales of Bowers & Merena: Garrett, Norweb, Eliasberg, and Bass. While ample information is included regarding the history of the Garrett family and formation of the collection, the strength of the work is to set the greater context of American numismatics. This is the story of American coinage told the Bowers way — crammed with historical connections, chock full of anecdotes, pleasantly illustrated, entirely readable, and at the same time authoritative. Together with Breen (#1) and Taxay (#12), each of this trilogy of late-twentieth-century standard references offers a unique reflection of its author: Breen the polyglot, Taxay a window to the archives, and Bowers the numismatic historian and master storyteller.

15. Newman, Eric P. (1967) *The Early Paper Money of America*

The ubiquity of the Federal Reserve note, "a circumvention of the literal constitutional language" according to Newman, stands in bold contrast to the host of paper money issues which circulated in early America. The almighty dollar, even if it has depreciated as much as Continental currency, has long outlasted its predecessors, and today one is hard pressed to relate to the situation of colonial times, when rapid inflation and nimble exchange rates turned ordinary transactions into mathematical mayhem. Fortunately we have Mr. Newman,

seemingly a first-hand observer, to sort out the situation. The result is the definitive record of hundreds of emissions of early currency, each series representing a struggle for economic leverage between American and European interests. The most recent edition of *Early Paper Money*, issued by Krause in 2008, is wonderfully illustrated in color and incorporates important material lately sold by Stack's.

16. Sheldon, William H. (1949) *Early American Cents*

Early coppers are the core of American numismatics, and if one is doubtful, a few hours in the company of Sheldon are sure to convince otherwise. *Early American Cents* is the first comprehensive treatment, describing in great detail 295 varieties of the years 1793-1814. Along with the complete photographic record the technical content is outstanding, but even more appealing is Sheldon's sheer enthusiasm for the ancient coppers, bursting with the history and promise of the first United States Mint. The various dies demonstrate the struggles of the early engravers and pressmen heroically trying to compete with their European brethren. Sheldon often romanticizes, but the reader is more than happy to go along for the ride. Equally compelling is the market data shared by Sheldon, who chased the large cents for a long period of time and took careful notes. Sheldon concludes the narrative with a memorable tale of "old cent whist," conducted at Henry Chapman's office in 1918, and permission is hereby given to the uninitiated to sneak a peek at the end of the book first!

17. Newcomb, Howard R. (1944) *United States Copper Cents, 1816-1857*

"The highest pinnacle for numismatic completeness," according to Sheldon, Newcomb represents a substantial reworking of Frank Andrews' monograph on the same subject, first published in 1881, which finished 122nd in our survey. Both were labors of love; Andrews is said to have labored on his *chef d'œuvre* for twenty years, while Newcomb betrays that "I have long looked forward to completion of this task." Newcomb honored Andrews' effort, retaining the previous nomenclature and adding new numbers only for unpublished varieties. Unlike Andrews, Newcomb's text is hand scripted, an unusual feature for any book, but one which seems to create an intimacy with Newcomb himself — it is almost as if we are reading his personal notebook. While the eleven halftone plates are typical for the period (that is to say, adequate), these can be easily supplemented with modern auction catalogues such as Naftzger or Robinson Brown.

18. Maris, Edward (1881) *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey with a Plate*

The bane of the small bookshelf, Maris's 18.5" × 12" folio-sized tome could more properly be titled *A Plate of New Jersey Coins with a Historic Sketch*, for the enormous plate, presented in two facing pages, is immediately the focus of the bibliophile. With 140 obverses and reverses depicted, a nineteenth-century collector could immediately begin attribution of New Jersey coppers with the Maris plate at hand. (Further discussion of this plate is found in *The Colonial Newsletter*, August 2003, serial no. 123.) The remainder of the volume includes the four-page "sketch," while ten pages are dedicated to detailing the die varieties and evaluating the rarity thereof. Maris, an ANS member, donated a copy with matching slipcase to the ANS in 1881, which remains in the library today. Maris was proud of the work — when, in 1885, he offered his collection of New Jersey coinage en bloc to T. Harrison Garrett, he noted that "one of my finest books" would accompany the cabinet, perhaps a copy similar to that of the ANS Library.

19. Bowers & Merena (1987-88) *Norweb*, parts 1-3

A multi-generational effort assembled by astute numismatists with resources to match, the *Norweb* catalogues might have rated even higher in our survey had the family not donated the *crème de la crème* to institutional collections — the 1913 nickel to the Smithsonian and the Brasher doubloon to the ANS. The remainders are still fit for a king: 1792 patterns, 1884 and 1885 trade dollars, one of the finest 1794 dollars, an 1870-S dollar, 1827 quarter, 1894-S dime, substantial early proofs and proof gold, and countless other delicacies in the colonial, federal, and territorial series. Not included is the hilarious tale of Mr. Breen, Mrs. Norweb, and the Milky Way chocolate bar. The reader is referred to the John J. Ford interview in *Heritage Legacy*, Vol. 3, Nos. 1 & 2 (1990) for full details; alternatively, a posthumous version is recreated by Pete Smith in *The Asylum*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (Summer 2005). Further amusement is provided by Ken Lowe, writing in the premier issue of *Out on a Limb* (August 1987), who famously described an evening at the Norweb manse in Cleveland. Bowers and Hodder's companion volume, *The Norweb Collection: An American Legacy* (1987), strikes a necessarily more serious tone in detailing the lives of the Norwebs and the development of the collection throughout its long history.

20. Breen, Walter (1977) *Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1977*

Breen could have dispelled much controversy by entitling this volume *Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof-like Coins*, but then it probably would not have sold as well. Dave Bowers summed it up best: "...he [Breen] considers more coins to be Proofs than do I." Thus, we are left with Breen's legacy — a genius who created work that is sometimes difficult to build upon due to lack of supporting documentation. Still, there is much of value here — numerous auction citations and other hints which guide further investigation. For example, Breen cites documentation associated with the 1906 Denver presentation double eagle, and sure enough, this showed up later in Stack's 72nd Anniversary sale. Also useful are notes on proof die varieties and proof coin deliveries, all set amid Breen's editorial voice panning the scrubbers and speculators, who today, ironically, cite Breen *ad nauseam* in breathless catalogue descriptions. Finally, there are a number of amusing anecdotes recounted here, such as H. P. Smith's deposition describing how the coin and medal clerk at the Philadelphia mint mishandled proof gold in 1886.

21. Adams, John (1982, 1990) *United States Numismatic Literature*, volumes I-II

Given the surfeit of bibliographic resources which have appeared since the publication of Adams' Volume I in 1982, including Gengerke's *American Numismatic Auctions*, Davis' *American Numismatic Literature*, and a substantial run of *The Asylum*, one can lose sight of the mountain that was scaled in this, the first comprehensive survey and evaluation of nineteenth- and twentieth-century numismatic auction catalogues. Beyond the technical data, Adams' biographical overviews add substantial color to the work of the early cataloguers. The two volumes greatly spurred the growth of numismatic bibliophilia, formally instituted as the NBS just two years prior to the publication of Volume I. As a set, they remain the standard reference covering the oeuvres of the most significant American numismatic auction cataloguers.

22. Bowers, Q. David (1993) *Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States*, volumes 1-2

This recently published set rates as high in the secondary market as in our survey. Originally priced at less than a hundred dollars, sets have regularly sold for three or four times as much, and the briefest glance at the content explains why. The works of Haseltine and Bolender on early dollars are completely updated with notes on die varieties and condition census data, and further complemented by all the interesting stories that one expects to find in a Bowers book. Vattemare's alleged plot to steal Stickney's 1804 dollar, for example, is but the tip of the iceberg. The section on Morgans is worth the price of

admission alone for Dave's interview with Harry Forman, the bag baron himself, who recalled in 2007 that Dave turned the tape recorder on and just let it run, an easy thing to do with Forman on the other side of the conversation. Still, this work is aimed squarely at current collectors, with comprehensive pricing history, seasoned opinions on rarity or lack thereof, and ample advice regarding various collecting strategies.

23. Loubat, J. F. (1878) *The Medallic History of the United States, 1776-1876*

Loubat's investigation into American medals awarded by Congress, 86 in all (with a small number of exceptions), is yet another proof that our numismatic ancestors took their work very seriously. Loubat painstakingly uncovered the original documents associated with each of these medals, and more than that, produced a magnificent two-volume set of the highest technical quality with splendid engravings. So admired was the work that a separate book (*The Magnum Opus of Joseph Florimond Loubat*) detailing Loubat's efforts was produced by John Adams et al., a beautiful leaf edition of which Loubat himself would have been proud. A necessary warning must be conveyed regarding the 1967 Flayderman reprint, the alleged quality of which Charles Davis called "the greatest bibliophilic lie in numismatics." While the text has been faithfully reproduced, the reprint preserves not the slightest hint of the grandeur of the original presentation. Thankfully, Adams' 2007 tribute resurrects the legacy of Loubat to its rightful position in the bibliophilic pantheon.

24. Bowers, Q. David (2002) *A California Gold Rush History*

If an army of trees ever took revenge on humankind, it might be wise to avoid the state of New Hampshire, for it is said that the author of this thousand-page quarto resides in that section of New England. Conversely, many of the gold bars recovered from the S.S. *Central America* exceed the weight of this eleven-pound bookshelf enemy, and thus it is altogether appropriate that the standard record of a staggering treasure be equally gargantuan in its scope. Written in conjunction with the salvage and marketing of the S.S. *Central America* treasure, the eye is first drawn to the hundreds of colorfully plated and catalogued assay ingots, but that is merely the icing on the cake. For what Bowers tells here is no less than the complete front story — following the gold and the gold hunters all the way from the Eureka moment to the depths of the Atlantic, and filling in the details with hundreds of primary accounts, woven with the narrative to produce a riveting tapestry of American experience. The S.S. *Central America* salvors, who painstakingly extricated their golden treasures with utmost care, were equally discerning in their selection

of archivists, and Bowers has delivered a written account as compelling as the treasure itself.

25. Breen, Walter (1984) *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents, 1793-1857*

Breen or Cohen (#46), is the question for the half-cent collector. A loose consensus seems to be the Breen book, but using the Cohen numbers, which Breen conveniently cross references. Nevertheless, one often sees both Breen and Cohen attributions in catalogue descriptions. In any case, Breen's half-cent encyclopedia is a trip back in time to the early days of the first United States Mint, struggling with copper supplies, die production, and manually operated screw presses. Breen's liberal citation of material from the National Archives is a welcome departure from certain of his other work. Combined with a thorough photographic record of die states and varieties, Breen's half-cent encyclopedia will keep the dedicated half cent collector out of trouble for a good amount of time.

26. Newman, Eric P., and Ken E. Bressett (1962) *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*

The 1960s version of the "Mythbusters," Newman and Bressett rewrote the century-old fantasy that was the 1804 dollar. Exhibiting keen technical and archival skill, the pair conclusively demonstrated that the coins were struck later than 1804, much to the consternation of those fortunate enough to possess an 1804, some of whom felt that the veil of uncertainty enhanced the value of their treasures. More likely the opposite was true, and the emergence of the King of Siam set in August 1962 only fueled the publicity. It also necessitated a call by Bressett to "hold the presses" during initial production of the book, and after a short delay the authors were able to include documentation regarding the diplomatic origins of the 1804. A small number of the first printing (more precisely page proofs bound identically to the "regular" edition) survive and are today highly prized. A useful retrospective was published in *Coin World*, on October 20 and 27, 2008.

27. Bowers & Merena (1999-2000) *Bass*, parts 1-4

In Bass I, lot 6, Dave Bowers famously describes a certain bibliographic resource as "hard to find if you want one, not necessarily valuable when located." Happily, the Bass catalogues are neither. A core reference for pattern collectors and indispensable for gold varieties, the cabinet is all the more remarkable when one considers that major portions of the collection are still held by the Bass Foundation, including the unique 1870-S \$3 gold piece. A mandatory

companion to this series is thus the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge*, which finished 108th in our survey. The Bass catalogues concluded the Golden Age of Bowers & Merena, its crowning achievement following the earlier blockbuster sales of Garrett, Norweb, and Eliasberg.

28. Burdette, Roger (2006-07) *Renaissance of American Coinage*, volumes 1-3

Burdette's three-volume masterpiece, exploring coinage designs introduced between 1905 and 1921, is instantly the standard reference on the subject. Here is the definitive word on experimental Saint-Gaudens pieces, proof Peace dollars, and the exposed breast on the Standing Liberty 1916 quarter, to name only a few. Meticulously researched from archival records and thoroughly documented, Burdette's legacy may actually exceed the work itself if even a few new writers aspire to his methodology. Burdette utilizes to great advantage both traditional and electronic resources and is completely transparent in his presentation. The present writer recently uncovered what seemed surely to be new and interesting information, only to find the subject already well treated in Burdette—an experience we expect to occur repeatedly in the future.

29. Julian, Robert (1977) *Medals of the United States Mint, 1792-1892*

Medals of the United States Mint is what a numismatic book can be only once — the groundbreaking introduction to a whole new field of inquiry, erecting the framework for a generation of collectors who will collect according to the now standard guide. For any follow-up volume will necessarily owe a large debt to Julian, who has plumbed the depths of the National Archives and extracted countless heretofore unknown facts regarding the United States medal series, and moreover melded this information with his encyclopedic knowledge of American numismatic history. The result is an indispensable reference regarding the engraving work of the United States mint — for its medallic art is comparable in substance to that of the federal coinage, and highly overlooked as such. One can only hope that Julian's monumental effort will inspire another to update the catalogue to the present time.

30. Heaton, Augustus (1893) *A Treatise of the Coinage of the United States Branch Mints*

Although auction cataloguers recorded mintmarks prior to Heaton (Woodward's 46th sale in 1882, for example, mentions a prooflike 1870-CC dollar), Heaton was the first to formally investigate the issue and publish his findings. To be sure, the book is full of inaccuracies, such as his discussion of 1873-CC

dimes, but to quibble over such points ignores the game-changing nature of Heaton's tome, for this book marks the genesis of *branch mint* rarity, a concept previously only considered on a date-by-date basis. Now the 1870-S dollar (unmentioned in Heaton, by the way) could be compared with delicacies such as 1827 quarters and 1822 half eagles. A hundred years would elapse before late-twentieth-century collectors further expanded the definition in order to embrace *condition* rarity. Still, although revolutionary in 1893, this volume has been superseded by many references, and remains a book more significant for being the first of its kind, than for its actual content.

31. Bolender, M. H. (1950) *The United States Early Silver Dollars, 1794-1803*

The silver dollar, although the most iconic of American coins, necessarily trailed early copper in strength of variety attribution. While large cents existed in the millions by the end of the eighteenth century, the first cartwheels were more elusive, and more expensive. Thus, while Sheldon (#16) was examining bulk lots of hundreds of early American cents, Bolender had to patiently wait for the occasional pieces which crossed his path. This book, then, is the result of forty years of study, as Bolender verified Haseltine's work (#95) while noting new discoveries. Over a hundred varieties are detailed and photographed. Unlike Sheldon, Bolender is not an effusive leak of pen on paper, and the text is narrowly focused on variety description and finding guides. A necessary "go-with" item is Bolender's 183rd auction sale (1952), featuring Bolender's reference collection. J. Hewitt Judd's copy of Bolender, signed by the author, resides in the ANA library.

32. Low, Lyman H. (1886) *Descriptive Catalogue of Hard Times Tokens Issued for and Against the United States Bank, and with References to the Financial Troubles of 1834-1841*

Actually a fixed-price list of Low's inventory of Hard Times tokens, this twenty-page catalogue represents the first systematic study of these politically charged coppers. Priced between 10 cents and 5 dollars, pieces were offered in either "good," "fine," or "uncirculated" condition, and engraved line drawings served as illustrations. Low identified 96 varieties, and a second edition in 1899 added another 70. Low was clearly obsessed with the investigation, noting in 1886 that "the collecting and study of this interesting series of American Tokens, has had much of my attention for the past six years, during which time every type and variety herein noted has passed through my hands, and it has been to me a source of pleasure to form which I believe to be the two most complete collections of them extant." The popularity of the series continues

today, with two of the Low varieties reaching the top ten in Jaeger and Bowers' *100 Greatest American Tokens and Medals*.

33. *Numismatic Scrapbook* (1935-1976)

While *The Numismatist* focused on club news, columns, and feature articles, the *Scrapbook* was an advertisement-driven vehicle, running over 300 pages a month at the height of the 1960s coin boom, with the great majority of content dedicated to plying the coin trade. To be sure it still attracted top numismatic research talent, including Walter Breen, Robert Julian, and others. Also found were numerous brief news updates which often convey information found nowhere else. With an index existing at <http://nip.money.org>, and a constant stream of back issues available via eBay and online booksellers, a run of the *Scrapbook* remains accessible, useful, and affordable. One might add "storable" to the list, as the handy 5" x 6 3/4" size ensures that bookshelf challenged collectors can house a complete set in a surprisingly small amount of space.

34. *The Asylum* (1980-date)

"At the ANA Convention last year [1979] in St. Louis, about a dozen fellow bibliomaniacs gathered together for an informal dinner and agreed to form an organization for numismatic book and catalogue collectors," wrote editors Jack Collins and George Kolbe in the inaugural issue of *The Asylum*. The remainder of the issue covered topics which nearly 30 years later still prove timeless — John Adams on literature of the large cent, or George Kolbe on Crosby (#2 on our list, arguably #1 at the time, as Breen's #1 did not yet exist). In between there and here *The Asylum* has served as the platform for core studies, esoterica, and more than a few pointed comments on the state of American numismatics. William Malkmus' cumulative index of volumes I-XXV, published in 2007, is a mandatory guide to the content and published record of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.

35. *Penny-Wise* (1967-date)

The copperheads, Northern anti-war Democrats of the 1860s, were followed within a few short years by copperheads of another flavor, rabid large- and half-cent omnivores, devouring and disgorging all manner of historical and technical data regarding the American copper coinage of the years 1793 to 1857. The Confederacy was extinguished in 1865, but coppermania thrives to the present era, most recently formalized as the Early American Coppers club in 1969. The organization's bimonthly journal, *Penny-Wise*, is "without peer" among specialty publications, according to Davis, and this writer concurs with the assessment. Top-notch research is presented on slick paper with

high-quality halftone photography, all in all a bargain for the annual dues. A CD containing the entire run of the periodical is available to "EACers", surely an enticing prospect to anyone considering membership.

36. Browning, Ard W. (1925) *The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States*

"The most perfect numismatic book written on the first try," according to Walter Breen, Browning was little known for its time, a labor of love which reached print but not much further. Today the original Browning and the John J. Ford 1950s reprint are highly prized, with a combined print run of perhaps 125 copies, according to Davis. Breen's opinion notwithstanding, Browning's work is dedicated to the quarter-dollar die varieties of 1796 to 1837 and not much else. Ironically, it was Breen himself who did much to expand the definition of numismatics beyond mere technical data. Thus, although Browning was well written and well plated, today's collectors expect more. Happily, the efforts of Steve Tompkins have recently resulted in a complete update of Browning, a 400-page cornucopia of quarters. In full color with considerable commentary not found in Browning, Tompkins is now the reference of choice for the bust quarter collector. For the bibliomaniac, one can only recommend that both be acquired, not to mention the precursor work, Haseltine's 1881 Type Table (#95).

37. Noe, Sydney P. (1943) *The New England and Willow Tree Coinages of Massachusetts*

The first of Noe's trio of treatises on Massachusetts coinage (see also #52 and #55), this pocket-sized ANS monograph, number 102 in that series, serves as a partial catalogue of the 1942 ANS exhibition of early coinage of the Americas, dedicated to items which circulated prior to the eighteenth century. Covered here are New England shillings, sixpences, and threepences, and the Willow Tree pieces of the same denominations. Noe approached the project with some trepidation, noting of Crosby's 1875 treatment of the same subject, "It has left so little for gleaners to gather that few have been willing to undertake the necessary delving to add to it." Included in the 56 pages here is historical background as well as discussion of die varieties with an attribution guide. Sixteen plates with tissue guard overlays depict any number of examples sourced from both institutional and private collections, an important aid for pedigree studies.

38. Stewart, Frank H. (1924) *History of the First United States Mint*

The product of a vocational education with no substantial academic creden-

tials, Stewart nevertheless loved history and genealogy and wrote widely on the subjects, focusing on southern New Jersey. His usual offering presented unexplored archival material, published with minimal analysis. The efforts were effectively self-funded — though many appear under the imprimatur of the Gloucester County (New Jersey) Historical Society, Stewart was, as Davis puts it, “the chief mover and shaker” of that New Jersey institution. History of the First United States Mint shines out from Stewart’s other work, for it combines archaeological excavation with archival research, and further, Stewart spent far longer on this work than on others, which were typically “hit and run” efforts quickly generated and dispensed. The \$5 issue price, “less than the actual expense of collecting and printing the material” (as a pre-publication circular said), once again reflects Stewart’s labor of love. There are many unanswered questions in the book — Stewart probably didn’t know the answers himself — but acting as our “eyes and ears,” Stewart’s record of the First Mint property is the best we will ever have.

39. Friedberg, Robert (1953) *Paper Money of the United States*

Friedberg’s book picks up where Bowers (#77) leaves off, though to be chronologically precise Friedberg was first on the scene. Beginning with the demand notes of 1861 (for which the Bass I catalogue is an excellent companion), Friedberg is the standard guide to United States currency, offering capsule summaries of each series along with comprehensive illustrations and valuations. Signature combinations, the mintmarks of the currency world, are completely listed and will enable even the novice to make rapid identification of “old money” at hand. First published in 1953, the work is now in its 18th edition and recently includes color plates illustrating numerous specimens from the ANA collection. Content has expanded throughout the years, with more current editions adding coverage of colonial, Continental, and Confederate currency.

40. Adams, Edgar H., and William H. Woodin (1913) *United States Pattern, Trial and Experimental Pieces*

The first substantial attempt at a comprehensive catalogue of United States patterns, Adams and Woodin created a template that has been used ever since — year-by-year overview commentary followed by an annual listing of patterns. A total of 1752 patterns are herein enumerated, many from the Woodin collection, though to be sure other provenances are integrated, notably of Granberg and Brand, and specimens from the Mint Cabinet are also detailed. The Woodin collection was essentially released *en masse* by the Mint Cabinet in 1909 in exchange for two gold half union patterns, and forms the basis of

this work. Said to consist of "two large crates," a formal inventory of the 1909 Mint group has never been revealed, leading to all manner of speculation regarding precisely what Woodin acquired at the time. In any case, the present volume is likely the closest that we shall ever come to such an inventory.

Top 200 List & Voting Totals

1	Breen, Walter (1988) <i>Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins</i>	4586
2	Crosby, Sylvester S. (1875) <i>The Early Coins of America</i>	4226
3	<i>The Numismatist</i> (1888-date)	3895
4	Yeoman, R. S. (1946-date) <i>A Guide Book of United States Coins (Red Book)</i>	3746
5	Sheldon, William H., Dorothy Paschal & Walter Breen (1958) <i>Penny Whimsy</i>	3036
6	Stack's (2003-07) <i>Ford</i> , parts 1-21	3023
7	<i>Coin World</i> (1960-date)	2968
8	Bowers & Merena (1979-81) <i>Garrett</i> , parts 1-4	2944
9	Judd, J. Hewitt (1959) <i>United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces</i>	2929
10	Bowers & Merena (1982, 1996, 1997) <i>Eliasberg</i> , parts 1-3	2878
11	<i>American Journal of Numismatics</i> , first series (1866-1924)	2665
12	Taxay, Don (1966) <i>The U.S. Mint and Coinage</i>	2630
13	Betts, Charles Wylls (1894) <i>American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals</i>	2610
14	Bowers, Q. David (1979) <i>The History of United States Coinage</i>	2579
15	Newman, Eric P. (1967) <i>The Early Paper Money of America</i>	2578
16	Sheldon, William H. (1949) <i>Early American Cents</i>	2527
17	Newcomb, Howard R. (1944) <i>United States Copper Cents, 1816-1857</i>	2418
18	Maris, Edward (1881) <i>A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey with a Plate</i>	2332
19	Bowers & Merena (1987-88) <i>Norweb</i> , parts 1-3	2322
20	Breen, Walter (1977) <i>Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1977</i>	2300

21	Adams, John (1982, 1990) <i>United States Numismatic Literature</i> , volumes 1-2	2293
22	Bowers, Q. David (1993) <i>Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States</i> , volumes 1-2	2168
23	Loubat, J. F. (1878) <i>The Medalllic History of the United States, 1776-1876</i>	2097
24	Bowers, Q. David (2002) <i>A California Gold Rush History</i>	2066
25	Breen, Walter (1984) <i>Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents, 1793-1857</i>	2038
26	Newman, Eric P. and Ken E. Bressett (1962) <i>The Fantastic 1804 Dollar</i>	2031
27	Bowers & Merena (1999-2000) <i>Bass</i> , parts 1-4	2009
28	Burdette, Roger (2006-07) <i>Renaissance of American Coinage</i> , volumes 1-3	2003
29	Julian, Robert (1977) <i>Medals of the United States Mint, 1792-1892</i>	1994
30	Heaton, Augustus (1893) <i>A Treatise of the Coinage of the United States Branch Mints</i>	1985
31	Bolender, M. H. (1950) <i>The United States Early Silver Dollars, 1794-1803</i>	1968
32	Low, Lyman H. (1886) <i>Descriptive Catalogue of Hard Times Tokens Issued For and Against the United States Bank, and with References to the Financial Troubles of 1834-1841</i>	1946
33	<i>Numismatic Scrapbook</i> (1935-1976)	1935
34	<i>The Asylum</i> (1980-date)	1929
35	<i>Penny Wise</i> (EAC) (1967-date)	1838
36	Browning, Ard W. (1925) <i>The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States</i>	1823
37	Noe, Sydney P. (1943) <i>The New England and Willow Tree Coinages of Massachusetts</i>	1816
38	Stewart, Frank H. (1924) <i>History of the First United States Mint</i>	1807
39	Friedburg, Robert (1953) <i>Paper Money of the United States</i>	1788

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| 40 | Adams, Edgar H. & William H. Woodin (1913) <i>United States Pattern, Trial and Experimental Pieces</i> | 1782 |
| 41 | Fuld, George & Melvin Fuld (1959) <i>Patriotic Civil War Tokens</i> | 1773 |
| 42 | Overton, Al (1967) <i>Early Half Dollar Die Varieties, 1794-1836</i> | 1749 |
| 43 | Fuld, George & Melvin Fuld (1972) <i>U.S. Civil War Store Cards</i> | 1748 |
| 44 | Davis, Charles (1992) <i>American Numismatic Literature</i> | 1678 |
| 45 | <i>The Colonial Newsletter</i> (1960-date) | 1668 |
| 46 | Cohen, Roger S. (1971) <i>American Half Cents, the Little Half Sisters</i> | 1660 |
| 47 | George F. Kolbe (1998-2000) <i>Bass Library, parts 1-4</i> | 1635 |
| 48 | Vermeule, Cornelius (1971) <i>Numismatic Art in America</i> | 1583 |
| 49 | Baker, William S. (1885) <i>Medallic Portraits of Washington</i> | 1566 |
| 50 | Haxby, James A. (1983) <i>A Standard Catalog of United States Obsolete Bank Notes, 1782-1866, volumes 1-4</i> | 1565 |
| 51 | Breen, Walter & Del Bland & Mark Borckardt (2000) <i>Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Cents, 1793-1814</i> | 1557 |
| 52 | Noe, Sydney P. (1952) <i>The Pine Tree Coinage of Massachusetts</i> | 1539 |
| 53 | Noyes, William C. (1991) <i>United States Large Cents, 1793-1814</i> | 1533 |
| 54 | Rulau, Russell et al. (2004) <i>Standard Catalog of United States Tokens, 1700-1900</i> | 1492 |
| 55 | Noe, Sydney P. (1947) <i>The Oak Tree Coinage of Massachusetts</i> | 1487 |
| 56 | New York Coin (1890) <i>Parmelee</i> | 1485 |
| 57 | S. H. & H. Chapman (1882) <i>Bushnell</i> | 1462 |
| 58 | Evans, George G. (1885) <i>History of the United States Mint at Philadelphia</i> | 1459 |
| 59 | Attinelli, Emmanuel J. (1876) <i>Numisgraphics, or a List of Catalogues in Which Occur Coins or Medals Which Have Been Sold By Auction in the United States</i> | 1430 |

- 60 Bowers, Q. David (1998) *American Numismatics Before the Civil War, 1760-1860* 1429
- 61 Van Allen, Leroy & Geroge Mallis (1971) *Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Morgan and Peace Dollars* 1413
- 62 Kagin, Donald (1981) *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States* 1411
- 63 Breen, Walter & Ronald Gillio (1983) *California and Fractional Gold, Historic Gold Rush Small Change, 1852-1856* 1379
- 64 Beistle, Martin L. (1929) *A Register of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-varieties* 1374
- 65 *Numismatic News* (1952-date) 1373
- 66 *Rare Coin Review* (Bowers & Merena) (1969-2003) 1350
- 67 Carothers, Neil (1930) *Fractional Money: A History of the Small Coins and Fractional Paper Currency* 1340
- 68 Stack's/Kolbe (2004-05) *Ford Library*, parts 1-2 1327
- 69 Bowers, Q. David (1991) *The American Numismatic Association Centennial History*, volumes 1-2 1306
- 70 Dickeson, Montroville (1859) *The American Numismatical Manual* 1294
- 71 W. Elliot Woodward (1867) *Mickley* 1288
- 72 Bowers, Q. David (1979) *Adventures with Rare Coins* 1278
- 73 Akers (1997-99) *Pittman*, parts 1-3 1274
- 74 Garrett, Jeff & Ron Guth (2006) *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins, 1795-1933* 1253
- 75 B. Max Mehl (1941) *Dunham* 1244
- 76 Hibler, Harold & Charles Kappen (1963) *So-Called Dollars* 1235
- 77 Bowers, Q. David (2006) *Obsolete Paper Money Issued by Banks in the United States, 1782-1866* 1228
- 78 Adams, John W. & Anne E. Bentley (2007) *Comitia Americana and Related Medals* 1223
- 79 Eckfeldt, Jacob & William DuBois (1842) *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations Struck Within the Past Century* 1213

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| 80 | Bowers & Merena (1982) <i>The Celebrated John Adams Collection of United States Large Cents of the Year 1794</i> | 1198 |
| 81 | Fivaz, Bill & J. T. Stanton (1990) <i>The Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties</i> | 1190 |
| 82 | Noyes, William C. (1991) <i>United States Large Cents, 1816-1839</i> | 1157 |
| 83 | Clapp, George H. (1931) <i>The United States Cents of the Years 1798-1799</i> | 1152 |
| 84 | H. Chapman (1907) <i>Stickney</i> | 1122 |
| 85 | H. Chapman (1921) <i>Jenks</i> | 1122 |
| 86 | American Numismatic Society (1914) <i>Exhibition of United States and Colonial Coins, 1914</i> | 1101 |
| 87 | <i>Numisma</i> (Edouard Frossard) (1877-1891) | 1101 |
| 88 | Bowers & Merena (1987) <i>Taylor</i> | 1076 |
| 89 | Valentine, Daniel W. (1931) <i>The United States Half Dimes</i> | 1067 |
| 90 | Akers, David W. (1975) <i>United States Gold Patterns</i> | 1059 |
| 91 | Gengerke, Martin (1990) <i>American Numismatic Auctions</i> | 1055 |
| 92 | Maris, Edward (1869) <i>Varieties of the Copper Issues of US Mint of the Year 1794</i> | 1049 |
| 93 | Sotheby & Co. (1954) <i>Farouk</i> | 1047 |
| 94 | Newcomb, Howard R. (1925) <i>The United States Cents of the Years 1801-1802-1803</i> | 1029 |
| 95 | Haseltine (1881) <i>Haseltine Type Table</i> | 1002 |
| 96 | Heritage (2006) <i>Reiver</i> | 982 |
| 97 | Rulau, Russell & George Fuld & George J. Fuld (1999) <i>Medallic Portraits of Washington</i> | 971 |
| 98 | Heath, Laban (1864) <i>Heath's Infallible Counterfeit Detector at Sight</i> | 967 |
| 99 | Clapp, George H. & Howard R. Newcomb (1947) <i>The United States Cents of the Years 1795, 1796, 1797, 1800</i> | 963 |
| 100 | Brunk, Gregory C. (1987) <i>American and Canadian Counter Marked Coins</i> | 952 |
| 101 | Wright, John D. (1992) <i>The CENT Book</i> | 951 |
| 102 | Taxay, Don (1975) <i>The Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of United States Coins</i> (2nd edition) | 946 |

103	Grellman, Bob & Jules Reiver (1986) <i>Attribution Guide for United States Large Cents, 1840-1857</i>	938
104	Bowers & Merena (1983-84) <i>Brand</i> , parts 1-2	929
105	<i>American Journal of Numismatics</i> , second series (1989-date)	929
106	Reed, Fred L. (1995) <i>Civil War Encased Stamps, The Issuers and Their Times</i>	927
107	Bowers & Merena (1994-95) <i>Champa</i>	926
108	Bowers, Q. David (1999) <i>The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge</i>	925
109	Dannreuther, John (2006) <i>Early US Gold Die Varieties</i>	912
110	Raymond, Wayte (1934-1957) <i>Standard Catalogue of United States Coins</i>	865
111	B. Max Mehl (1946) <i>Atwater</i>	862
112	Belden, Bauman (1927) <i>Indian Peace Medals</i>	850
113	Coin World (1960-date) <i>Coin World Trends</i>	850
114	Mehl, B. Max (1912-1960) <i>Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia</i>	818
115	Frossard, Edouard (1879) <i>Monograph of United States Cents and Half Cents (1793-1857)</i>	817
116	<i>TAMS Journal</i> (1961-date)	816
117	DuBois, William E. (1846) <i>Pledges of History: A Brief Account of the Collection of Coins Belonging to the Mint of the United States</i>	802
118	Thian, Raphael P. (1884) <i>The Currency of the Confederate States: Its Issues, Types, and Series</i>	801
119	Hickox, John H. (1858) <i>An Historical Account of American Coinage, with Plates</i>	793
120	Barney Bluestone (1944-46) <i>Grinnell</i> , parts 1-8	782
121	Superior (1986) <i>Brown I</i>	769
122	Andrews, Frank D. (1881) <i>A Description of 268 Varieties of United States Cents 1816-1857 in the Collection of Frank D. Andrews</i>	760
123	Snowden, James Ross (1860) <i>A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins, in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States</i>	755

124	Pollack, Andrew (1994) <i>United States Patterns and Related Issues</i>	753
125	Kosoff & Kreisberg (1945-46) <i>World's Greatest Collection</i>	753
126	<i>The Coin Collector's Journal</i> (Raymond) (1934-1958)	724
127	American Numismatic Society (1947-date) <i>Numismatic Literature</i>	720
128	Logan, Russell J. & John W. McCloskey (1998) <i>Federal Half Dimes, 1792-1837</i>	719
129	ANR (2005) <i>Eliasberg, world gold</i>	709
130	Yeoman, R. S. (1942-date) <i>Handbook of United States Coins (Blue Book)</i>	708
131	Ahwash, Kamal (1977) <i>Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Dimes, 1837-1891</i>	705
132	Stack's (2006) <i>Norweb, Washingtonia</i>	702
133	Stack's (1984) <i>Starr, 2 sales</i>	697
134	Bowers, Q. David & David Sundman (2005) <i>One Hundred Greatest American Currency Notes</i>	691
135	Garrett, Jeff & Ron Guth (2003) <i>One Hundred Greatest U.S. Coins</i>	682
136	H. Chapman (1912) <i>Earle</i>	679
137	Davis, David et al. (1984) <i>Early United States Dimes, 1796-1837</i>	668
138	Willem, John (1959) <i>The United States Trade Dollar</i>	657
139	B. Max Mehl (1922) <i>Ten Eyck</i>	646
140	Mickley, Joseph (1858) <i>Dates of United States Coins, and Their Degrees of Rarity</i>	638
141	New Netherlands (1968) <i>60th Public Auction</i>	638
142	New Netherlands (1973) <i>Naftzger</i>	630
143	<i>The Gobrecht Journal</i> (1974-date)	626
144	<i>Annual Report of the Director of the Mint</i> (1800?-date)	625
145	Hetrich, George & Julius Gutttag (1924) <i>Civil War Tokens and Tradesman's Store Cards</i>	621
146	Bowers, Q. David (1974) <i>High Profits from Rare Coin Investment</i>	619

147	Bowers, Q. David (2005) <i>The United States \$3 Gold Pieces</i>	610
148	Hart, Aldophus (1851) <i>History of Issues of Paper Money in the American Colonies</i>	610
149	Lester Merkin (1964) <i>Helfenstein</i>	608
150	New Netherlands (1967) <i>59th Catalogue</i>	596
151	Gilbert, Ebenezer (1916) <i>The United States Half Cents</i>	592
152	Collins, Jack & Walter Breen (2007) <i>1794: The History and Genealogy of the First U.S. Dollar</i>	590
153	<i>John Reich Journal</i> (1986-date)	587
154	Hans Schulman, New Netherlands (1952) <i>1952 ANA</i>	576
155	Wiley, Randy & Bill Bugert (1993) <i>The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars</i>	572
156	American Bond and Currency Detector Co. (1869) <i>The American Bond Detector and Complete History of the United States Government Securities</i>	570
157	Adams, Edgar H. (1911) <i>Private Gold Coinage of California, 1849-1855</i>	567
158	Grellman, John R., Jr. (2001) <i>The Die Varieties of United States Large Cents, 1840-1857</i>	560
159	<i>The Civil War Token Journal</i> (1967-date)	555
160	<i>The Coin Collector's Journal</i> (Scott) (1875-1888)	554
161	Stack's (1954) <i>Anderson DuPont</i>	551
162	Thian, Raphael P. (1887) <i>The Register of the Issues of Confederate States Treasury Notes</i>	546
163	Paramount et al. (1979-90) <i>Apostrophe</i>	527
164	<i>Out on a Limb (Money Tree)</i> (1987-1998)	525
165	W. Elliot Woodward (1864) <i>McCoy</i>	524
166	Valentine, Daniel W. (1924) <i>Fractional Currency of the United States</i>	523
167	Stack's/Sotheby's (2002) <i>1933 Double Eagle</i>	520
168	<i>CoinAge</i> (1964-date)	517
169	Bushnell, Charles I. (1858) <i>An Arrangement of Tradesman's Cards, Political Tokens, also Election Medals</i>	513
170	H. Chapman (1909) <i>Zabriskie</i>	511

171	Shull, Hugh (2006) <i>A Guide Book of Southern States Currency</i>	503
172	Superior (1992) <i>Trompeter</i>	499
173	Superior (1989) <i>Robinson</i>	477
174	Hall, Thomas (1892) <i>A Descriptive List of the Coins Issued by Authority of Connecticut for the Year 1787</i>	476
175	Stack's (1978-85) <i>Bareford, 4 sales</i>	473
176	Ormsby, Waterman L. (1852) <i>A Description of the Present System of Bank Note Engraving</i>	466
177	Tripp, David (2004) <i>Illegal Tender</i>	463
178	<i>Numismatic Review</i> (Stack's) (1943-1947)	457
179	S. H. Chapman (1920) <i>Hunter</i>	455
180	Moulton, Karl (2007) <i>Henry Voigt and Others Involved with America's Early Coinage</i>	449
181	Lee, William (1875) <i>The Currency of the Confederate States of America</i>	445
182	<i>Mason's Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine</i> (1867-1872)	431
183	U. S. Coin Company (1915) <i>Granberg</i>	427
184	Stack's (1988) <i>Halpern</i>	422
185	Manley, Ron (1999) <i>The Half Cent Die State Book: 1793-1857</i>	421
186	S. H. & H. Chapman (1906) <i>H. P. Smith</i>	420
187	American Numismatic Society (1962) <i>Dictionary Catalogue of the American Numismatic Society, volumes 1-6</i>	418
188	Frossard, Edouard and William W. Hays (1893) <i>Varieties of United States Cents of the Year 1794</i>	416
189	Goe, Rusty (2003) <i>The Mint on Carson Street</i>	408
190	New Netherlands (1956) <i>47th Catalogue</i>	403
191	B. Max Mehl (1929) <i>The Celebrated Collection of Large United States Cents — Dr. Geo. French</i>	401
192	Bradbeer, William W. (1915) <i>Confederate and Southern State Currency</i>	398
193	Newlin, Harold P. (1883) <i>A Classification of Early Half-Dimes of the United States</i>	398

194	Augustus Sage (1859) <i>Catalogue of Coins, Tokens, Medals from 1652 to the Present</i>	392
195	Doughty, Francis (1890) <i>The Cents of the United States</i>	390
196	Wayte Raymond (1925) <i>Wilson</i> , parts 1-3	387
197	Stack's (1983-84) <i>Roper</i> , 2 sales	386
198	S. H. & H. Chapman (1879) <i>S. H. & H. Chapman</i>	380
199	Storer, Malcolm (1923) <i>Numismatics of Massachusetts</i>	376
200	Chapman, S. H. (1923) <i>The United States Cents of the Year 1794</i> (1st edition)	365

TOP ENTRIES BY CATEGORY

Top Ten Books

Breen, Walter (1988) <i>Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins</i>	4586
Crosby, Sylvester S. (1875) <i>The Early Coins of America</i>	4226
Sheldon, William H., Dorothy Paschal & Walter Breen (1958) <i>Penny Whimsy</i>	3036
Judd, J. Hewitt (1959) <i>United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces</i>	2929
Taxay, Don (1966) <i>The U.S. Mint and Coinage</i>	2630
Betts, Charles Wylls (1894) <i>American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals</i>	2610
Bowers, Q. David (1979) <i>The History of United States Coinage</i>	2579
Newman, Eric P. (1967) <i>The Early Paper Money of America</i>	2578
Sheldon, William H. (1949) <i>Early American Cents</i>	2527
Newcomb, Howard R. (1944) <i>United States Copper Cents, 1816-1857</i>	2418

Top Ten Auction Catalogues

Stack's (2003-07) <i>Ford</i> , parts 1-21	3023
Bowers & Merena (1979-81) <i>Garrett</i> , parts 1-4	2944
Bowers & Merena (1982, 1996, 1997) <i>Eliasberg</i> , parts 1-3	2878
Bowers & Merena (1987-88) <i>Norweb</i> , parts 1-3	2322
Bowers & Merena (1999-2000) <i>Bass</i> , parts 1-4	2009

George F. Kolbe (1998-2000) <i>Bass Library</i> , parts 1-4	1635
New York Coin (1890) <i>Parmelee</i>	1485
S. H. & H. Chapman (1882) <i>Bushnell</i>	1462
Stack's/Kolbe (2004-05) <i>Ford Library</i> , parts 1-2	1327
W. Elliot Woodward (1867) <i>Mickley</i>	1288

Top Ten Periodicals

<i>The Numismatist</i> (1888-date)	3895
<i>Coin World</i> (1960-date)	2968
<i>American Journal of Numismatics</i> , first series (1866-1924)	2665
<i>Numismatic Scrapbook</i> (1935-1976)	1935
<i>The Asylum</i> (1980-date)	1929
<i>Penny Wise</i> (EAC) (1967-date)	1838
<i>The Colonial Newsletter</i> (1960-date)	1668
<i>Numismatic News</i> (1952-date)	1373
<i>Rare Coin Review</i> (Bowers & Merena) (1969-2003)	1350
<i>Numisma</i> (Edouard Frossard) (1877-1891)	1101

Top Ten FPLs

Bowers & Merena (1982) <i>The Celebrated John Adams Collection of United States Large Cents of the Year 1794</i>	1198
B. Max Mehl (1929) <i>The Celebrated Collection of Large United States Cents — Dr. Geo. French</i>	401
Augustus Sage (1859) <i>Catalogue of Coins, Tokens, Medals from 1652 to the Present</i>	392
Stack's (1963) <i>Joseph Brobston Collection</i> , Stack's Fixed Price List 69	340
Numismatic Gallery (1944) <i>The Outstanding Collection of US Large Cents, the Pearl Collection</i>	247
Stack's (1969) <i>Philip M. Showers Collection</i>	234
Empire Coin (1960) <i>An Outstanding Collection of United States Pattern Coins</i> (Lohr)	210
Kagin (2008) <i>The Robert Bass Collection of Pioneer Gold Patterns</i>	195
Hollinbeck-Kagin (1959) <i>The World's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars</i> (E. Taylor Collection)	155

William Idler (c. 1859) <i>Catalogue of Coins, Medals, Tokens, Continental Money</i> (undated)	103
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Top Literature Guides (all)

Adams, John (1982, 1990) <i>United States Numismatic Literature</i> , volumes 1-2	2293
Davis, Charles (1992) <i>American Numismatic Literature</i>	1678
Attinelli, Emmanuel J. (1876) <i>Numisgraphics, or a List of Catalogues in Which Occur Coins or Medals Which Have Been Sold By Auction in the United States</i>	1430
Gengerke, Martin (1990) <i>American Numismatic Auctions</i>	1055
American Numismatic Society (1947-date) <i>Numismatic Literature</i>	720
American Numismatic Society (1962) <i>Dictionary Catalogue of the American Numismatic Society</i> , volumes 1-6	418
Katen, Frank & Laurese Byrd Katen (1975, 1977) <i>Coin World Almanac</i> , chapter 23 (1st and 2nd editions)	177

Top Price and Census Guides (all)

Yeoman, R. S. (1946-date) <i>A Guide Book of United States Coins (Red Book)</i>	3746
Raymond, Wayne (1934-1957) <i>Standard Catalogue of United States Coins</i>	865
Coin World (1960-date) <i>Coin World Trends</i>	850
Mehl, B. Max (1912-1960) <i>Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia</i>	818
Yeoman, R. S. (1942-date) <i>Handbook of United States Coins (Blue Book)</i>	708
PCGS (1990-date) <i>The PCGS Population Report</i>	332
Robinson, Jack (1983-date) <i>Copper Quotes by Robinson</i>	222
Rome's (1972-1981) <i>Romes Prices Realized</i>	213
Krause (1982-2003) <i>Auction Prices Realized</i>	163
NGC (1990-date) <i>NGC Census Report</i>	138
Jones, George (1860) <i>The Coin Collector's Manual</i>	31

Defining and Voting On "Greatest" Numismatic Works: A Contrarian View of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society Survey

D. Wayne Johnson

The above survey is a fruit salad. By including auction catalogues, periodicals, and so on with numismatic books you are not just comparing apples and oranges but also pomegranates and kumquats. Each class has its own purpose, use, and intent. Too bad it was decided to include them all in a single 1-to-100 rating survey.

I decline to list my choice of 100 Greatest Numismatic Works for this NBS survey. But don't feel bad, I also declined to vote in the 100 Greatest American Medals and Tokens survey for the 2008 Whitman book of the same name, despite the fact the two authors are both dear friends. I objected to the concept of mixing the two classes of numismatic items for that one book, as I object to mixing numismatic books with the other forms of numismatic communication in this survey.

Granted, while such voting by a large group of people may be quite democratic, its result is just a popularity contest. If you are a collector of one particular series, obviously you are going to vote for books on that series as the "greatest." They were great to you for the information you learned from those items — but they may not be "great" to the numismatic field in its entirety. Thus, the more popular collecting series will skew this list in their favor.

I would define "greatest" in this context as the books that provided the greatest amount of numismatic information to the greatest number of readers. Books on one particular series fall short in this respect because of their limited scope.

The survey also assumes you are familiar with all 357 items listed on the eight-page ballot. I have been in numismatics for 69 years and I haven't even seen some of these items, let alone examined them to be fa-

miliar or qualified to evaluate their "greatness." There are over 100,000 items in the American Numismatic Society's library. Say a third of those are American. How is it that 357 of that total were chosen as the only ones on the ballot? That is, perhaps, one out of a hundred!

How about items a person was involved with, as author, contributor, publisher, or such. Doesn't it skew the results as well if you vote for your own publication? Or one you were closely associated with? Should I vote for *Coin World* because I was the first editor, even though I have written for a dozen other publications?

Perhaps it would be far more useful to have one knowledgeable person select "100 Greatest." I would nominate Francis Campbell for such a task. Although now retired, he would be the ideal person to evaluate American numismatic literature, if you are seeking some sort of rating. With fifty years experience as librarian at the American Numismatic Society, Frank Campbell has probably handled every one of those items on the ballot plus hundreds of those overlooked. I would respect his opinion based on his hands-on experience and insight into the content of every one he choose. His list would have some merit, in contrast to the popularity contest of NBS members who took part in this survey.

Okay, I relent. I'll vote, but only for books, and only a small part at that. Attached is a list of 25 that I consider to be great books (on the ballot) and my reason for selecting them in the order listed. I have also appended a list of 25 books I consider great that were *not* on the ballot, with similar comments.

I have selected books that I believe stress *core concepts* of numismatics, books that would be useful across the spectrum of all numismatics. I give high marks for books of great *reference value*, something that would be used over and over. That is why I call numismatic dictionaries and encyclopedias "great" and list them near the top for both these criteria.

I have also given gold-star listing to books whose author was first to employ some *innovation* of numismatic literature or cataloguing. An example would be Wayte Raymond's *Standard Catalogue of United States Coins*, the first to use tabular listing in a coin catalogue. Obvious to us now, and used in coin catalogues published all over the world, it was Wayte Raymond's innovation.

I also like books particularly discussing *technology* — so important is this subject! — how the items were made, not just a list or catalogue of a

particular series, topic, or subject. These, then, were my four criteria for choosing the books I did. Your selections, of course, would be different, obviously, because your criteria would not be the same. But I'll wager it was influenced by your own numismatic specialties.

We have seen the "100 Greatest American Coins," likewise for paper money as well as medals and tokens. Now we have 100 Greatest American Numismatic Works. I hope this fad has run its course. Please, no more 100 Greatest of anything else in numismatics. Instead, how about some numismatic works with a little more substance, please.

25 GREATEST AMERICAN NUMISMATIC BOOKS ON THE NBS BALLOT

1. Breen, Walter Henry. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. New York, London: F.C.I. Press, Doubleday, 1988. 754 pages, illus. [7,343 items] Appendix includes: bibliography [975 items] pp. 674-694, glossary [582 terms] pp. 695-711, index of names [2,397 names] pp. 712-725, index of subjects [5,200+] pp. 726-754.

This book is unquestionably the greatest American numismatic book for the amount of research, knowledge and sheer information found in this book. The linear numbering system was an excellent choice, leaving open numbers for future issues. The arrangement is ideal. The supplemental data — metrology (in preface), and the appendices, bibliography, glossary, indexes of names and subjects — make it one of the first stops for anyone seeking data on American coins. Only shortcoming is illustrations below the description instead of above, as is numismatic custom (but this was a publisher's decision not the author's.)

Because of its pre-eminent position in the numismatic field, detractors have taken potshots at Breen's text. Some early mintage figures may be off, and some critics may question the author's assumptions where the facts did not exist when the author wrote about them. Over all, however, it remains the one volume of American numismatics above all others. I would certainly welcome an updated version, but it would require a team of qualified numismatic authorities to accomplish such a task, in contrast to the herculean achievement by one very qualified, knowledgeable numismatic scholar.

2. Julian, Robert W. *Medals of the United States Mint, The First Century, 1792-1892*. Token and Medal Society, 1977. 424 pages, illus. [573 items]

Of extreme importance to collectors of American medals and U.S. Mint history buffs. Julian's thorough research of Mint archives and physical examination of dies in the Philadelphia Mint's die vault is evident. He plowed new ground for collectors where Loubat (see #9 below) uncovered the documents authorizing these medal issues. Excellent numbering system in fourteen categories. This standard catalogue will remain the bible of this topic for years to come.

The sections "General History" and "Coverage of This Catalog" (xviii to xlii) are quite useful on technology at the US Mint.

3. Betts, Charles Wyllys. *American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals*. New York: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., 1894. Reprinted Glendale, NY: Benchmark Publishing, 1970; Boston: Quarterman Publishing, 1972. 332 pages, illus. [623 items]

The manuscript was edited after the author's (1845-87) death by William T. R. Marvin and Lyman Haynes Low. The preface, written by the author's brother, Frederic H. Betts, makes an often-repeated statement: "It is safer to quote a medal than a historian." The book's content served as subject for entire COAC conference by the American Numismatic Society, May 14-15, 2004.

The author's scope for "America" included the entire Western Hemisphere, much like Leonard Forrer (whom Betts may have influenced) in his *Biographical Dictionary of Artists*. The number of medals directly attributed to the United States was 92 of the 623 medals listed (14.8%). Even so this book's contribution to American numismatics was monumental.

4. Vermeule, Cornelius C. *Numismatic Art in America; Aesthetics of the United States Coinage*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971. 266 pages, illus. Reprinted (2008).

The only work on the subject of art and style of American coins and medals. The author was a professional museum curator with classical training, certainly qualified to write such a book. His analysis of American numismatic items by their art movement and style was unprecedented. He even created a new term — American Federal — for the unique style of early American coins.

5. Bowers, Q. David. *American Numismatics Before The Civil War, 1760-1860, Emphasizing the Story of Augustus B. Sage*. Wolfeboro, NH: Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., 1998. 429 pages.

Chronicles the birth and development of numismatics in America. The author found in his research on the history of numismatics in America that Augustus B. Sage dominated this movement. He weaves the story of this one man in

with the early development of American numismatics. Interesting to read in addition to a scholarly work based on author's extensive knowledge and research in American numismatics.

6. Raymond, Wayte. *Standard Catalogue of United States Coins*. New York: Wayte Raymond. First published in 1929 with 20 editions almost on a yearly basis up to 1957 with slight variations in name.

The first major American coin catalog! Raymond invented tabular listing of coins by denominations, date and mint, and ultimately by multiple conditions with valuations. Coin catalogs now around the world universally use tabular columns for such coin data. This work was the early pre-eminent American coin price guide.

7. Yeoman, Richard S. (pseudonym of Richard Sperry Yeo). *A Guide Book of United States Coins*. Racine, Wisc.: Whitman Publishing Co. Issued every year since 1947 (2009 is 62nd edition with 432 pages), illus.

Dick Yeo took Raymond's tabular concept of listing U.S. coins and popularized it, creating the "Red Book" of American coins. This has served the field well for 62 years under both Dick Yeo's and Ken Bressett's able editorships. Some recent innovations: illustrations in color and illustration of a medal, *Libertas Americana*, because of its influence on the design of early American coins.

8. Crosby, Sylvester Sage. *The Early Coins of America*. Boston, 1870-75. 381 pages, 9 plates.

The first major American book on coins and money that earned numismatists' approbation and appreciation. I read this so long ago and disposed of the three copies I owned but I do remember the exhaustive treatment, even what American Indians used for money.

9. Loubat, Joseph Florimond. *The Medalllic History of the United States of America, 1776-1876*. New York: privately printed, 1878. 2 vols; 478 pages, 96 plates. Reprinted New Milford, Conn.: Norman Fladerman, 1967.

Exhaustive treatment by an author who tracked down medals, their documents, and sometimes even their dies. Where Julian (#2 above) covered the same early U.S. Mint medals — Julian added later issues all with a theme for a collector perspective — Loubat concentrated on the documents authorizing

their issue for a historical perspective. Sumptuous book with fantastic plates in the original edition.

10. Comparette, Thomas Louis. *Catalogue of Coins, Tokens, and Medals in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1912. 2nd edition (1913). 3rd edition (1914), 694 pages, 15 plates.

The Mint Collection was transferred from the Philadelphia Mint to the Smithsonian in Washington DC in February 1924 and became a part of the nation's collections, now in the Smithsonian's Department of Numismatics and called the "National Numismatic Collection" (see Unlisted Book #7 for full history).

Comparette was the second curator of the Mint collection (the first was Robert A. McClure), but the first to catalogue the full collection in a systematic way. Numismatic cataloguing methodology has come a long way from his early effort, but this volume is still useful. His office was on the mezzanine of the Third US Mint in Philadelphia, the engravers room on the second floor above. He could have walked upstairs to check his facts, yet he cataloged the work of Adam Pietz as "A. Peaks" (example #22, p 667).

11. Burdette, Roger W. *Renaissance of American Coinage*. Great Falls, Va: Seneca Mill Press, 2005-07. 3 volumes: Volume 1 1905-1908 (2006) 382 pages, illus. Volume 2 1909-1915 (2007) 350 pages, illus. Volume 3 1916-1921 (2005) 343 pages, illus.

Based on extensive research of the original documents, Burdette's trilogy covers an important period in the development of American coinage, from hand engraving of dies by mint engravers, to the use of artists outside the mint. Sculptors created our coin designs by preparing oversize models in this period. These patterns were then rendered into dies by pantographic reduction. Useful for the background information of commemorative coins in addition to circulating coin series, documenting this activity from original records found in the National Archives.

12. Rulau, Russell, and George Fuld. *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. Iola, Wisc.: Krause Publications, 1985. At head of title: Centennial Edition. 308 pages, illus. Second edition Iola, Wisc.: Krause Publications, 1999, 318 pages, illus.

An illustrated, priced revision of W. S. Baker's 1885 catalogue (#26 below) of the coins, medals and tokens of the Father of His Country. The authors

retained the somewhat stilted format of Baker's forced arrangement by "chapters." Instead, a purely chronological sequence would have been much preferable (and would have eliminated such errors as the placement of the same medal in two "chapters" which occurred twice by the present authors!).

13. Sheldon, William Herbert. *Early American Cents*. New York: Harper, 1949. 339 pages, illus.

Sheldon's contribution to numismatics is his grading scale, first applied to early large cents, his specialty. The scale has been modified for other denominations and is forever preserved in the classic scale 1 to 70. His portrait should be hung in every grading service's office for this numismatic innovation. You can pen your own comments about letting this man touch your coins!

14. Newman, Eric P., and Kenneth E. Bressett. *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*. Racine: Whitman Publishing, 1962. 144 pages, illus.

This book is ranked high for the innovative approach of compiling the complete history of one coin. Obviously the coin's rarity deserves this, and the story is a fascinating saga in American Mint history that is a classic in the collector lore of the silver dollar series.

15. Rulau, Russell. *Standard Catalog of United States Tokens 1700-1900*. 3rd edition. Iola, Wisc.: Krause Publications, 1999. 1040 pages, illus.

The author should be given credit for his extensive work in the field of American tokens. This book is an accumulation of several previous works by period and placed in one volume.

16. Bowers, Q. David. *The American Numismatic Association Centennial History*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: American Numismatic Association, 1999. 2 vols.

What a wealth of data! Not only does it chronicle the history of the largest coin organization on earth, but it also supplements this with historical documentation of the numismatic field. It mentions thousands of names prominent in the field. It is no wonder that when this was published, everyone who picked it up first checked the index to see if their name was listed.

17. Hibler, Harold E., and Charles V. Kappen. *So Called Dollars: An Illustrated Standard Catalog with Valuations*. New York: Coin and Currency Institute, 1963. 156 pages, illus. [993 listed].

I liked this book so much I bought 1,000 copies. Actually, my partner and I bought the remainders from Coin & Currency. We also published a revised price list. For 25 years it has been the bible of the field before a revision could be published.

18. Storer, Malcolm. *Numismatics of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Historical Society, 1923. 319 pages, 38 plates. [2317 items listed]

All numismatic items even remotely connected to the state are included (example: a Minnesota Royal Arch medal, 685, is included because its national headquarters were located in Boston). Storer's cataloging style reversed left and right (opposite of numismatic custom) the item's left and right, not the viewer's. He incorrectly called panels "labels".

19. Adams, John, and Anne E. Bentley. *Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage*. Crestline, Calif.: George Kolbe, 2007. 285 pages, illus.

A fresh and scholarly treatment of America's first medals, authorized by Congress and struck at the Paris Mint. Just published. Thank goodness it made the ballot.

20. Chamberlain, Georgia Stamm. *American Medals and Medallists*. Annandale, Va.: Turnpike Press, 1963. 146 pages, 55 plates.

Author died at early age, in a loving act her husband, Robert S. Chamberlain, gathered all her articles on medals and reprinted in a bound volume as permanent memorial in her memory. Useful to find this information in one place.

21. Baker, William Spohn. *Medallic Portraits of Washington with Historical and Critical Notes and a Descriptive Catalogue of the Coins, Medals, Tokens, and Cards*. Philadelphia: Author, 1885. 252 pages.

Baker expanded on what Snowden had published previously and organized the numismatic items into chapters. This set the tone of collecting Washington medals, at a high point in the nineteenth century, which began to decline in the early twentieth century. Rulau and Fuld based their revision and update (#15 above) on this epochal work.

22. Stewart, Frank H. *History of the First United States Mint, Its People and Its Operations*. Camden, N.J., 1924. Reprint Lawrence, Mass: Quaterman Publications, 1974. 224 pages, illus.

The author had great respect for the heritage of the US Mint when he pur-

chased the site of the first Mint for his electrical business. He tried to preserve as much as he could and still utilize the site.

23. Smith, Andrew Madsen. *Coins and Coinage: The United States Mint, Philadelphia*. Philadelphia, 1881. Later editions 1884, 1885. 107 pages, illus. Subtitle: "History, biography, statistic, work, machinery, products, officials. Intended for the general public but contains useful mint data."

The first major American book that made popular the information on the United States Mint.

24. Evans, George G. *Illustrated History of the United States Mint and a Complete Description of the American Coinage*. Philadelphia, 1885. Later editions yearly through 1894, 1897, 1901. Reprinted New York: Sanford Durst, 1977. 190 pages, illus, 32 plates.

After Mehl's *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia*, this was the first coin book I owned. I kept buying copies of Evans until I tried to own a "roll" of 50 copies. I almost made it before selling a major portion of my library. Like Smith above, it contains brief useful data on the Mint.

25. Musante, Neil. *The Medalllic Work of John Adams Bolen, Die Sinker &c.* Springfield, Mass.: the author, 2002. 365 pages, illus. 8 color plates.

The author catalogues the work of this nineteenth-century engraver-copier, his 42 items and 15 mules. The author also discusses the reissues after his dies were dispersed, 18 by George Mason and Frank Smith Edwards, 17 by John W. Kline, and 16 by William Elliot Woodward. Other American diesinkers of all time deserve a similar extensive biographical / catalogue treatment as this innovative work.

25 GREATEST AMERICAN NUMISMATIC BOOKS NOT ON THE NBS BALLOT

1. Frey, Albert Romer. *Dictionary of Numismatic Names*. New York: American Numismatic Society, 1917. First appeared in *American Journal of Numismatics*. Reprinted: New York: Barnes & Noble, 1947, with "Glossary of Numismatic Terms" (English, French, German, Italian, Swedish) by Mark M. Salton [an updating of Ambrosoli]; London: Spink & Son, 1973, with addenda. Dictionary [4,111 terms] 311 pages; foreign glossary [560 terms in 5 languages, 2,800 terms]

total], 94 pages; addenda included an ANA Glossary [178 terms], 20 pages.

Frey is the old standby for an English language numismatic dictionary. Highly recommended, with strong emphasis on denominations and coin names. Frey included terms on paper and primitive money, and some economic terms. His original work included a geographical and paper money index. Salton's glossary is quite useful, covers 2,800 most used numismatic terms in five languages, but never, it seems, the term at hand.

2. Junge, Ewald. *World Coin Encyclopedia*. London: Barrie & Jenkins; New York: William Morrow, 1984. 297 pages. Illus. [1,753 terms]; bibliography [517 items].

Junge's entries are not definitions or encyclopedia entries. They are a collection of insightful paragraphs, useful information every numismatist should know, and should memorize those facts in any area of numismatics in which the reader is working or collecting. It was written for the English and American reader, however, since the author was German, he was able to explain several useful German numismatic terms. It is not indexed, nor grouped by areas of interest, so the reader must select an entry from the single alphabetical listing.

3. Breen, Walter Henry. *The Minting Process: How Coins are Made and Mismade*. Beverly Hills, Calif.: American Institute of Professional Numismatists, 1970. 163 pages, illus. In format of 24-lesson course curriculum; not widely available.

Every collector, and certainly every numismatist, should become intimately familiar with every step of the minting process, especially mint error collectors. This work was an attempt to pass this knowledge of coining technology on to the reader.

4. Breen, Walter Henry. *Dies and Coinage*. Hewitt's Information Series. Chicago: Hewitt Brothers, 1965. 34 pages, illus.

The knowledge of how dies are made and used in coining is basic information about technology every numismatist should know. Every writer, curator, cataloguer, appraiser, advanced collector in the field should have a complete understanding of the subject in this brief pamphlet.

5. Adelson, Howard L. *The American Numismatic Society, 1858-1958*. New York: American Numismatic Society, 390 pages, illus.

This book has served as a research resource so many times in my numismatic studies that I must give credit here. The ANS was so closely allied with every development in the field that their minutes and exhibit reports chronicle the history of the field. Until Dave Bowers documented the earlier and parallel activity in his *American Numismatics Before The Civil War, 1760-1860* (#5 above), Adelson was the only source. Now they complement each other!

6. Clain-Stefanelli, Elivra Eliza. *Numismatics — An Ancient Science: A Survey of its History*. Contributions from the Museum of History and Technology, Paper 52. Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1965. 102 pages, illus.

This work places numismatics in vivid perspective, covering not only, as its title states, a survey of its history as an applied science, but also the use of numismatics to other scholarly disciplines. Always useful to read and re-read.

7. Clain-Stefanelli, Vladimir. *History of the National Numismatic Collections*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1969. 108 pages, illus.

Our nation's coin collection and how it was formed, from the time when early US Mint assayers, Jacob Eckfeldt and William DuBois — bless them! — set aside specimens of coins that were deposited at the mint as bullion, to the major twentieth-century donors of great collections.

8. American Numismatic Society. *Catalogue of the International Exhibition of Contemporary Medals... March, 1910*. New York: American Numismatic Society, 1911. With introduction by Agnes Baldwin. 412 pages, illus. [2,052 numbered items].

The medallic work of 194 medallists of Europe and America who accepted an invitation to exhibit in NYC. The catalogue, with illustrations of individual items or mounted panels of each artist's work, is an expansion of a brief list published before the exhibition. Some bibliographies cite this work as *IECM*.

An unappreciated numismatic publication but vitally important to the development of medallic art in America. This exhibit, and a companion one for coins — a century ago — are unequalled in America, and perhaps the world! Medallic art was at its height at this time as this publication illustrates.

9. Coin World (Staff). *Coin World Almanac, 1975*. Sidney, Ohio: Amos Press Inc. First edition 1975, with seven editions to 2000.

I am jealous of the entire Coin World Staff for compiling this almanac. This is

exactly what I wanted to compile for the numismatic field, but they beat me to it. Useful data for everyone who writes in the field, covering the full spectrum of numismatics. Check here first. It may have just the fact you are seeking. Look for an upcoming publication, *The Red Book Almanac*, by Q. David Bowers, which may be equally useful.

10. Doty, Richard G. *The Macmillan Encyclopedic Dictionary of Numismatics*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co; London: Collier Macmillan Publishers, 1982. 355 pages. Illus. [416 terms].

Doty brings a wide numismatic and historical knowledge to this book, based on his work as curator at two top numismatic museums, the American Numismatic Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

11. Dryfhout, John H. *The Work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens*. Hanover & London: University Press of New England, 1982. 356 pages, illus.

Catalogue raisonné of the artist's work including 1907 gold coins plus medallic items by the artist unquestionably considered America's greatest coin and medal artist. This book and Moran's (#12 in the unlisted section) form the complete history and illustrations of Saint-Gaudens' numismatic productions.

12. Moran, Michael F. *Striking Change: The Great Artistic Collaboration of Theodore Roosevelt and Augustus Saint-Gaudens*. Atlanta: Whitman, 2008. 432 pages, illus.

Perhaps too recently published to have made the NBS ballot, but this is an outstanding study of Saint-Gaudens' activities in relation to his coin and medal creations. It is based on extensive scholarly research in a highly readable text. I helped edit, so I am prejudiced in my unrestrained praise for this work.

13. Marburg, Theodore F. *Management Problems and Procedures of a Manufacturing Enterprise, 1802-1952: A Case Study of the Origin of the Scovill Manufacturing Company*. PhD Thesis, Clark University, 1952.

Explains procedures used at Scovill, for example: annealing (p. 213), edgemaking (pp. 75-77), burnishing (pp. 80-83), finishing (pp. 80-108), chasing (pp. 105-106), gilding, diesinking (pp. 55-67), milling edge (p. 177).

The same metalworking procedures and problems at the US Mint were reflected by the solutions of this major private metalworking firm. Scovill produced tokens as early as 1829 continuing into the twentieth century,

supplied bronze blanks to the US Mint for the last half of the nineteenth century and struck coins for foreign governments as early as 1876. Scovill became America's "secret mint," often supplying the US Mint with the technology they developed. This doctoral thesis chronicles the development of company, the technology of the full spectrum of metalworking and minting, and overcoming the hardships of legal problems imposed on a private mint by misguided government officials.

14. Alpert, Stephen P., and Lawrence E. Elman. *Tokens and Medals: A Guide to the Identification and Values of United States Exonumia*. Los Angeles, Calif.: Stephen Alpert, 1992. 300 pages, illus.

An encyclopedic treatment of American tokens (medals were intended for a separate publication), this volume defines and illustrates examples of 39 kinds of tokens and 25 token topics. Don't be put off by line drawings (pencil rubbings); they served the purpose where photo illustrations would have been cost prohibitive. The definitions for each class of tokens are excellent.

15. Smith, Pete. *American Numismatic Biographies*. Rocky River, Ohio: The Money Tree Gold Leaf Press, 1992. 252 pages. [1400 biographies]

The only collection of vital data on American numismatists under book covers. Extremely useful in any contemporary numismatic writing. I want an updated, revised edition, Pete. Please!

16. King, Robert Pennick. "Lincoln in Numismatics: A Descriptive List of the Medals, Plaques, Tokens and Coins Issued in Honor of the Great Emancipator." *The Numismatist* (1924) 37: 55-171; (1927) 40: 193-204; (1933) 46: 481-497. Reprinted by the Token and Medal Society, 1966; 145 pages, illus. *A Comprehensive Index To King's Lincoln In Numismatics*, by Edgar Heyl, was published by TAMS, 1967; 18 pages.

A new edition with illustrations is in preparation by TAMS (2008) with the hope this gets published in 2009 for the Bicentennial of Lincoln's birth.

17. DeWitt, J. Doyle. *A Century of Campaign Buttons, 1789-1889*. Hartford, Conn.: Travelers Press, 1959. 420 pages, illus. A revision was issued by Edmund B. Sullivan, *American Political Badges and Medalets, 1789-1892*. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publications, 1981. 646 pages, illus. The revision retained the same numbers in

the original edition and added newly found varieties. Page numbers, obviously, differ.

DeWitt did not always adhere strictly to campaign items, including those struck after an election (e.g., inaugural medals). There are other idiosyncrasies: "jugate" is spelled "jugata" throughout; sometimes an item greater than 25 mm is called a "medalet"; he uses the word "copies" for pieces or specimens.

18. Storer, Horatio Robinson. *Medicina in Nummis: a Descriptive List of the Coins, Medals, Jetons Relating to Medicine, Surgery and the Allied Sciences*. Boston: privately printed, 1930. 1146 pages. [8343 numbered items listed, but with liberal use of letter suffixes the total is well over 9000]. Edited and copyrighted by Malcolm Storer, son of the compiler, and himself a compiler of Massachusetts medals (see #18 above).

Horatio Storer is notorious for miscataloguing, and unfortunately his errors were repeated elsewhere (e.g., Forrer's *Biographical Dictionary of Medalists*). Storer's idiosyncrasies include use of "undescribed" for unlisted (or undescribed) and would sometimes omit a reverse description but include other characteristics on the line following "Rev."

19. Freeman, Sara Elizabeth. *Medals Relating to Medicine and Allied Science in the Numismatic Collection of The Johns Hopkins University, a Catalogue*. Baltimore: Evergreen House Foundation, 1964. 430 pages, 32 plates. [922 items, 396 medalists]

A lone curator who compiled a scholarly treatment of an important collection. The author delights in correcting Storer's incorrect descriptions on same items. For decades Freeman was the only source of the list of the meanings of Paris Mint symbols on the edges of medals.

20. Rulau, Russell. *Discovering America: The Coin Collecting Connection*. Iola: Krause Publications, 1989. 327 pages, illus.

A rare treatment of a topic with numismatic examples and evidence, often not available elsewhere. I would welcome similar studies using coins, medals, and tokens as evidence.

21. Sargent, Thomas J., and François Velde. *The Big Problem of Small Change*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2002. 405 pages, illus. Chapter 4: Technology, 45-68; Screw Press, 53-59.

This is a comprehensive and scholarly study of the use of small denomination coins throughout history. It is hoped the US Treasury officials would study this work in preparation of their decisions what to do with the US cent and nickel. One of the authors (Velde) suggests keeping the coins in circulation but rebasing (that is, revaluing) them to the next higher denomination. This solution eliminates problems of recoining, coin melting and any possible coin shortages.

22. Wiles, James. *The Modern Minting Process... & U.S. Minting Errors and Varieties, An ANA Correspondence Course*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: American Numismatic Association School of Numismatics, 1997. 202 pages, illus (36 pp. in color).

Walter Breen once said it is necessary to understand how coins are made to understand how they are mismade. This work in the format of a correspondence course is most useful in this study.

23. Falk, Peter Hastings. *Who Was Who in American Art*. Madison, Conn.: Sound View Press, 1999. 3 vols, 3,724 pages. [65,000 artists]

First compiled from the original 34 volumes of *American Art Annual: Who's Who in Art*, this databank originally included biographies of American artists from 1800 to 1947 and was published in 1985 in one volume. Later the cutoff date was extended to 1974; with extensive search of art, exhibition and 1700 reference works, this databank had grown to more than 65,000 biographies by 1999 and was published in three volumes. Respected as the most comprehensive and reliable single source for data on American artists of all techniques and media.

Over 1,025 coin and medal artists are listed. The present author furnished over 100 biographies of coin and medal artists for this work. This is a blatant example of voting for a work in which one was involved. Thank you.

24. Groce, George C., and David H. Wallace. *The New-York Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America, 1564-1860*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1957. 759 pages.

All artists in America up to the Civil War are listed, including engravers, diesinkers, and medalists [306 of coin and medal interest; some duplication may exist because engraving firms and personal names of engravers are both listed]. Most useful and recommended. However, all artists are included in Falk (#23 above).

25. Baxter, Barbara A. *The Beaux-Arts Medal in America*. New York: American Numismatic Society, 1987. For Exhibition Sept 26, 1987 to April 16, 1988. 92 pages, illus. [112 artists listed, 368 medallic items]

An overview of American art medals in the period of the Beaux-Arts style, based on specimens in the collections of the American Numismatic Society.

Help Promote the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Howard A. Daniel III sets up a club table to represent the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (and the International Bank Note Society, Numismatics International, and the Philippines Collectors Forum) at both of the annual American Numismatic Association events, the Florida United Numismatists (FUN), and the International Paper Money Show.

The Asylum and NBS membership applications are given to numismatists interested in the society from the table. Journals and applications for the other societies are also given out.

There are also world bank notes and world coins to give to young and new numismatists in a packet which includes a consolidated membership application form for all four groups. References are given to numismatists but especially to teachers and scout counselors, for them to use with their students and scouts.

Howard always needs volunteers to staff the table and needs your unwanted references, world banknotes, and/or world coins. Please contact Howard at hadaniel3@msn.com to make the donation arrangements. The best method to get them to him is to take them to one of the three shows, otherwise, you can mail them to him. Howard can also send a thank-you letter to each donor which will document their donation for tax purposes.

Numismatic Literature at the World's Fair of Money

RyAnne Scott

The World's Fair of Money isn't just about money. The convention, to be held August 5-9 at the Los Angeles Convention Center's West Hall, offers numerous events and seldom-seen rarities sure to delight bibliophiles.

One such example is a rare 492-year-old copy of the first illustrated numismatic book, *Illustrium Imagines* (Images of the Illustrious), which is housed in the American Numismatic Association's Dwight N. Manley Numismatic Library. The book was donated to the library by Manley in December 2007.

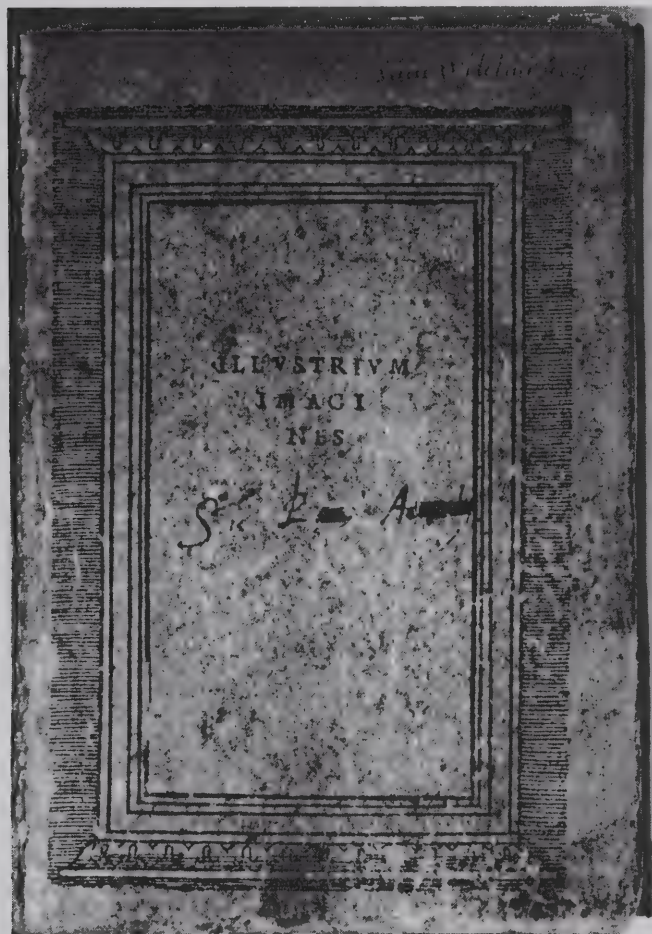
The landmark work will be displayed in the convention's Museum Showcase area, along with major exhibits from the American Numismatic Association, the Smithsonian Institution's National Numismatic Collection, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, and others.

Written by Andrea Fulvio, *Illustrium Imagines* contains more than 204 ornate woodcuts based on medallion portraits of rulers. Text on each famous ancient figure is presented on its own page, along with a white-on-black, medallion-like portrait bordered by one of eight decorative frames. Biographical sketches are primarily based on historical sources such as Plutarch, Suetonius, Tacitus, and later works.

Printed in 1517 in Rome, Italy, the book was published by typographer and editor Giacomo Mazzocchi, who was active in Renaissance Rome between 1505 and 1527.

Illustrium Imagines is an octavo bound in four folios. The first four of the book's 120 leaves are not numbered, but the rest are numbered V-CXX. The ANA's copy was apparently rebound in the 1700s, with a spine lettered in gilt.

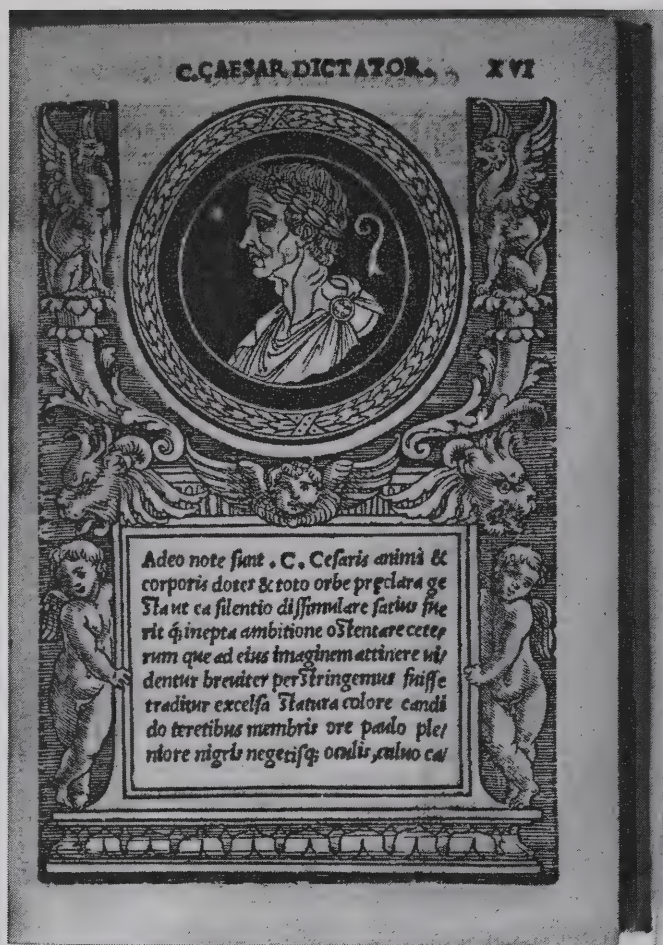
As noted in Christian Dekesel's *Bibliography of 16th Century Numismatic Books*, there are two versions of the tome; one dated November 7, another dated November 15. The colophon of the ANA's version



Title page. The simple title page of the world's first illustrated numismatic book, *Illustrum Imagines*, published in 1517 in Rome. (Photo credit: American Numismatic Association / Douglas A. Mudd)

denotes that the book was printed on November 15, 1517.

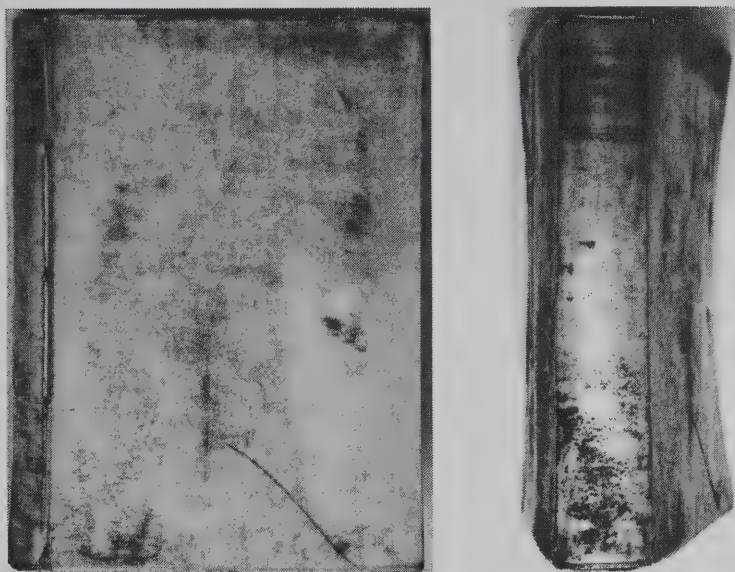
The first known printed numismatic book, *De Asse et Partibus Eius*, a scientific study of Roman metrology and coinage written by Guillaume Budé in 1514, did not contain illustrations. However, it is credited with being the first book to use images and information derived from medals to enhance our understanding of history.



Caesar. A medallion-like portrait of Julius Caesar and ornate woodcut borders adorn page 16 in *Illustrium Imagines*. (Photo credit: American Numismatic Association / Douglas A. Mudd)

The illustrations make *Illustrium Imagines* such a milestone work. The figures in the woodcuts represent four periods: the Roman Republican age, the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, and the Holy Roman Empire.

Many woodcuts in the book were based on ancient Roman coins and medals in Mazzocchi's collection. The Republican pages begin with



Cover. The 120 leaves of the historic 1517 book, *Illustrium Imagines*, were rebound apparently in the 1700s with a spine lettered in gilt. Collector Dwight Manley has donated an original edition of this rare book to the ANA Library. (Photo credit: American Numismatic Association / Douglas A. Mudd)

the two-faced portrait of the god Janus, derived from one of the many Republican coins bearing the image. Elsewhere, the biographies and depictions do not match — some are mismatched with other figures, and some images are seemingly invented for the occasion.

Of course, this type of misidentification can be easier to forgive when one considers that modern researchers attributed these woodcuts to the wrong artist for early four centuries. Initially, credit was given to Ugo da Carpi, primarily because he had lived in Rome between 1516 and 1518. However, there was no proof he worked for Mazzocchi. Thanks to author John Cunnally's research in the 1990s, the wonderful woodcut portraits can be attributed to noted printmaker Giovanni Battista Palumba.

In Andrea Fulvio's time, ancient coins were primarily studied from three angles: their use in iconography, their value compared to contemporaneous money and their use as evidence to solve historical or

antiquarian questions. In the decades following the book's release, a more scientific approach to numismatics began to take shape.

"The book represents the beginnings of the science of numismatics," said Douglas Mudd, curator of the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum. "Andrea Fulvio took the first steps towards making numismatic information available to scholars and collectors by linking information about ancient coins and medals to illustrations of the pieces. This connection to the ancient world of Greece and Rome was a key component of the Renaissance."

Other World's Fair of Money numismatic literature highlights:

- The Numismatic Bibliomania Society's Symposium will be held at 11:30 AM August 6 in Room 511a of the Los Angeles Convention Center's West Hall. Q. David Bowers will discuss his new book, *The Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*, a single, authoritative reference for collectors of these series.
- The Numismatic Bibliomania Society's general meeting will be at 11:30 AM August 7 in Room 510 of the Los Angeles Convention Center's West Hall. The speaker is to be determined. Discussion topics will include the club's new website, Leonard Augsburger's work on the 100 Greatest Items of United States Numismatic Literature, the Collins Award, and plans for *The Asylum*.
- The Numismatic Literature Guild will hold its Symposium at 10 AM August 6 in Room 512 of the Los Angeles Convention Center's West Hall. The NLG Bash will be held at 8 PM August 6 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel. Visit www.numismaticliteraryguild.org for updated information.
- At *Coin World's* booth, visitors can find out more about the publication's online version, which allows readers to access to the weekly edition of *Coin World*, its digital library, the monthly edition of *Coin Values* and the bi-monthly editions of *Paper Money Values* and *World-Wide Coins*, along with additional bonus content. Visitors can also find out about Amos Press's recent book, *Making the Grade*, and sign up for a monthly online newsletter.
- Other booths with a literary emphasis include Krause Publications and Whitman Books, which will bring its full store and host author signings.
- For updates, visit www.worldsfairmoney.com

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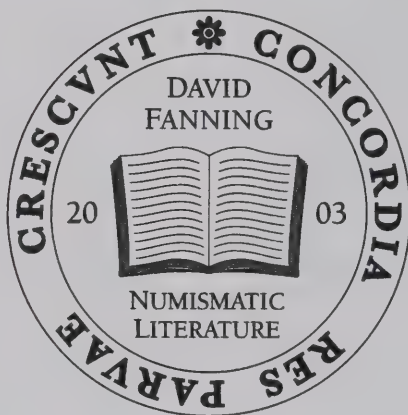
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All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

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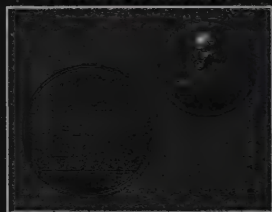
In Heritage's April/May 2009 Central States Currency Signature® Auction, we offered many numismatic treasures, such as Spencer M. Clark's Fractional Currency Presentation Book — one of only thirteen created. This book was presented to Spencer M. Clark, who was Superintendent of the National Currency Bureau and later the BEP (and best known for placing his own portrait on the Third Issue Five Cent Fractional Currency note). Visit our Auction Archives at HA.com to research this and the millions of other important lots that Heritage has sold, featuring full-color, enlargeable images, complete catalog descriptions, and prices realized. Reference books and catalogs are also available. Join HA.com today — it's FREE!

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Volume 27, No. 3

July-September 2009



“Three or four years ago we made a suggestion to the Poetry Society of America to the effect that it would be a good idea for poets and editors and publishers to abstain from producing and printing any poetry for the space of five years. We wished to see if the tone of national life would not be perceptively raised at the end of that time. But the plan was received with silence.”

DON MARQUIS
1878-1937

The Asylum

Vol. 27, No. 3

Consecutive Issue No. 105

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Front cover: Paquet Reverse of an 1861-P double eagle, as discussed by David Stone in this issue (image courtesy of Heritage Auctions, www.ha.com).



Editor's Introduction

Announced in Volume 27 Number 1 earlier this year, the Jack Collins Award is offered annually for the best article in *The Asylum* from a new contributor. Based on the ballots returned by the readers (and very kindly tabulated for the NBS by David Lange), the first winner is Bill Bugert, for his detailed and informative article in Volume 26 Number 1 about Martin Luther Beistle's *A Registry of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-Varieties*. After the award was announced at the NBS meeting in Los Angeles in August, he wrote to express his thanks to the readers:

I was surprised, delighted, and honored to have won the 2008 Collins Award for my article entitled "The Martin Luther Beistle Book on Half Dollars." When Len Augsburg called me in LA to inform me that I had won, I was shocked indeed. I am certainly pleased my extensive research on ML Beistle was recognized by the NBS membership and I wish to thank those who voted for me. Many thanks to all of the NBS for the very generous \$500.

Numismatically yours,
Bill Bugert

Our hope is that this award will encourage more members to bring their knowledge to the pages of *The Asylum*. Two more worthy contenders for the award appear in this issue, David Stone and Roger Siboni, in addition to fine contributions by "old hands" Ben Keele, John Adams, and David Gladfelter.

David Yoon

The Mysterious Mr. French, Revealed at Last

David Stone

The 1861 Paquet Reverse double eagle (Figure 1) is a fabulous rarity, with only two specimens known to numismatists today. The discovery coin appeared as lot 2818 of Woodward's Sixth Semi-Annual Sale (March 1865). Priced and named catalogues of this sale record the winning bid on this lot as \$37.00 to "French", creating a mystery that has puzzled numismatists for 144 years. The "French" sobriquet appears as the buyer of many lots in several auction catalogues of the Civil War era. He purchased 24 lots in the Sixth Semi-Annual Sale, and a like number in the McCoy sale, the Fifth Semi-Annual Sale, and the Mickley sale. Q. David Bowers notes that he was an active bidder in Sage's Bogert and Whitmore sales in 1859. Other citations doubtless exist, but for all this activity, the identity of Mr. "French" has never been established. He was not named as a consignor to any numismatic auction of the nineteenth century, and no contemporary biographical data on any collector named French has ever come to light.

THE MYSTERY SPREADS

Because of the rarity and importance of the Paquet Reverse double eagle, modern researchers have made a concerted effort to establish the pedigrees of the two known specimens and confirm the identity of Mr. "French". Very little information was available in print before Q. David Bowers published *United States Gold Coins: An Illustrated History* in 1982. In that book, David Akers provided the information that the first example of the Paquet Reverse double eagle "was undoubtedly the piece from an 1865 Woodward sale (March 20th of that year) where it appeared as Lot 2818 and sold for \$37 (quite a high price for the time—remember this was only four years after the coin was struck) to a 'Mr. French.'" This important comment revealed some information about the coin's first auction appearance, but neither Bowers nor Akers was prepared to guess the identity of the enigmatic Mr. "French".



Figure 1. Double eagle with Paquet reverse (images courtesy of Heritage Auctions, www.ha.com).

In 1991, the ANA published a landmark article about the Paquet Reverse double eagles in *The American Numismatic Association Anthology*. The coauthors of this important piece were John Ford, Michael Hodder, and P. Scott Rubin. The authors used many sources (including references published by Bowers, the Virgil Brand inventory ledgers, annotated auction catalogues, contemporary correspondence, and billing information from the John Ford library) to review the history of the two known specimens. A remarkable pedigree resulted. They found it possible to trace the ownership of one coin back to George Seavey in 1869, when he exhibited his collection of gold coins to the Boston Numismatic Society. A list of the coins displayed was published in the March 1869 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, and the Paquet Reverse double eagle was included in the patterns section as “1861 Double Eagle, trial of new die, abandoned.” The first appearance of the other example was in the sale of the Cohen collection (Edward Cogan, October 1875), lot 1314. Since Mendes I. Cohen and George Seavey were the earliest owners of Paquet Reverse double eagles who could be reliably traced, the authors assumed “French” must be an alias used by one of these collectors, with the feeling that Seavey was the more likely candidate. The matter has more or less rested there until the present day, with no solid proof of French’s identity, and some numismatists even asserting that there must be three specimens of the Paquet Reverse double eagle represented by these citations.

A DIFFICULTY

A problem with the idea that “French” is an alias for either Cohen or Seavey can be found in the annotated auction catalogue of Woodward’s Sixth Semi-Annual Sale from John Ford’s library (Figure 2). The docu-

\$7310 45

166

37 00	2818	1861 Twenty Dollar Piece. This piece differs from the ordinary variety in the arrangement of the stars over the head of the eagle, and is said to be unique; perfectly uncirculated.	French
16 00	2819	Ten Dollar Piece, without date; obv. with California above and stars below: rev. "Miners' Bank, San Francisco," "Ten D" across the field of the coin; fine and scarce	French
7 50	2820	1849 Five Dollar Piece; obv. eagle with shield, marked five, "California Gold, without Alloy;" rev. "Full Weight of Half Eagle," "N. G. & N, San Francisco;" fine and very rare.	Strobridge
8 00	2821	1834 Carolina gold, Five Dollar Piece, August 1, C. Bechtler, at Rutherford; nearly proof, extremely rare.	McCoy
62 50	2822	1860 Splendid proof set, containing Double Eagle, Three Dollar Piece, Quarter Eagle and Dollar; six pieces, very rare.	Strobridge
62 50	2823	1861 Brilliant proof set, six pieces, of same denominations as the last; equally rare.	Strobridge
62 50	2824	1862 Brilliant proof set, six pieces.	Strobridge
63 00	2825	1863 Brilliant proof set, six pieces; extremely rare as a set, and the Three Dollar Piece and the Quarter Eagle very rare in any condition.	Strobridge
62 50	2826	1864 Brilliant proof set, six pieces, as rare as the last.	McCoy
2 63	2827	1849 Dollar; brilliant proof, rare.	Cohen
2 25	2828	1854 Dollar; brilliant proof, rare.	Cohen
2 25	2829	1855 Dollar; brilliant proof, scarce.	Cohen
2 25	2830	1856 Dollar; brilliant proof.	Cohen
2 25	2831	1857 Dollar; brilliant proof.	Cohen
3 00	2832	1858 Dollar; brilliant proof.	Ely
3 00	2833	1859 Dollar; brilliant proof.	Ely
1 50	2834	1860 Dollar; brilliant proof.	Strobridge
1 50	2835	1861 Dollar; brilliant proof.	Strobridge
1 50	2836	1862 Dollar; brilliant proof.	Strobridge
75	2837	1852 California Half Dollar, round.	Strobridge
1 50	2838	1855 California Dollar, octagon; head of Liberty, with seven stars.	Strobridge

\$7716 33

Figure 2. Page 166 of Woodward's Sixth Semi-Annual Sale (March 1865), showing the lot description, price, and buyer of the Pacquet Reverse double eagle, as well as a Miner's Bank 10 dollar piece to the same buyer.

ment reveals both collectors bidding openly under their own names. On the same page of the catalogue where the Paquet Reverse double eagle lot is listed, Cohen is recorded as the winning bidder of no less than five lots. He made substantial purchases throughout the sale, using his own name. Seavey was even more spectacular. He purchased lot 2628, the Brasher doubloon, for \$400, a staggering sum at the time. Clearly, these gentlemen were not trying to conceal their numismatic activities. They were proud of their collections, and seem to have sought headlines rather than anonymity. On the whole, the alias theory does not seem plausible where Seavey and Cohen are concerned.

TRUE IDENTITY SURFACES

The true identity of Mr. "French" was revealed by Edward Cogan in his October 1875 sale of the Cohen collection. Lot 1314 of that sale reads, "1861 Twenty Dollar Gold Piece. The Reverse on this piece, although similar in design to that of the regular issue, is larger in every respect and was withdrawn in consequence of the extreme narrow milling, which would cause much loss by abrasion, and all but two were remelted—this one and one in the possession of Mr. W. J. Jenks of Philadelphia. Extremely rare." Cogan clearly identifies William J. Jenks as the owner of the other example of the Paquet Reverse double eagle, and by inference "French". Jenks was a prominent collector whose numismatic activities spanned three decades. He began collecting in the 1850s and was active well into the 1880s. He dispersed most of his collection in a series of five auction sales, catalogued by three different coin dealers, between the years 1877 and 1883.

The question of whether Cogan is a credible source for this information is easily answered. The true insiders of the hobby, such as Cogan and Woodward, would certainly have known "French's" true identity. They would have corresponded with him to accept bids and settle accounts for auctions he could not attend in person, and they would certainly have known him face-to-face in the auctions he did attend. Cogan handled the first auction sale of Jenks' collection in 1877. It would be very strange if Cogan was not aware of any false identity he may have assumed.

Over the years, numismatists have either discounted Cogan's identification or failed to notice it. Hodder, Rubin, and Ford were aware

of the 1875 auction description, but they felt it must be inaccurate, because the first public auction sale of Jenks' collection did not take place until two years later. They reasoned it would have been impossible for Jenks to buy the coin in 1865 because they knew it was in Seavey's collection by 1869 and they did not believe Jenks could have sold the coin to Seavey before his auction sale in 1877. One piece of information, unknown to Cogan, Hodder, Rubin, and Ford caused all the confusion.

THE MISSING PIECE

J. N. T. Levick wrote a series of articles called "Reminiscences of a Coin Collector" in the *American Journal of Numismatics* in the late 1860s. In one of these articles, in the October 1868 issue of the *AJN*, Levick provided the crucial information linking Jenks to Seavey at an early date. In a discussion relating mainly to large cents, Levick relates, "George F. Seavey, Esq., of Cambridgeport, Mass., was fortunate enough to purchase Mr. Jenks collection, which, of course, improved his own cabinet immensely, and undoubtedly it ranks as the first in the country." This scrap of information shows it was possible for Jenks to have sold the double eagle to Seavey before 1869 and thus validates Cogan's later identification. The sequence of events must have gone like this:

1. Jenks (bidding as French) buys the Paquet Reverse double eagle at Woodward's sale in 1865.
2. Jenks sells a large part of his collection, including the double eagle, to Seavey before October 1868.
3. Seavey exhibits his collection, including the double eagle, to the Boston Numismatic Society before March 1869.
4. Cogan identifies Jenks as the owner of the first Paquet Reverse double eagle in his 1875 Cohen sale, not realizing that Jenks sold the coin to Seavey in a private transaction circa 1868.

ANALYSIS OF AUCTION DATA

The four most important coin auctions of the 1860s were the McCoy Sale (Woodward, May 1864), the Fifth Semi-Annual Sale (Woodward, October 1864), the Sixth Semi-Annual Sale (Woodward, March 1865), and the Mickley Collection (Woodward, October 1867). Fortunately, annotated copies of these catalogues have survived to the present day,

and further study of these documents may corroborate Cogan's identification of Jenks as the elusive "French". A prominent collector such as Jenks would certainly have participated in some of these sales. If his name does not appear in the catalogues, but French does, the idea that Jenks was using this false identity to avoid public scrutiny becomes much more viable.

Unlike Cohen and Seavey, Jenks does not appear as the winning bidder of any lot in the priced and named copy of Woodward's Sixth Semi-Annual Sale. It should be noted that another collector, A. V. Jencks, did participate in this sale, and was listed as the winner of many lots. Jencks was an active collector in the 1850s and 1860s, and Woodward sold three collections listing him as a major consignor over the years. With only handwritten bookkeeping and the difficulty of accurately recording names of bidders in the fast-paced setting of a nineteenth-century auction, it is easy to imagine a scenario in which Jenks would be billed for lots that Jencks had bid on, and vice versa. Avoiding this kind of confusion may have been one reason Jenks created the "French" alter ego to begin with. Of course, he was undoubtedly anxious to avoid targeted bidding by competitors who were aware of his collecting interests, as well. A further concern might have been personal security, to avoid the robberies that plagued less cautious collectors, like Joseph Mickley.

Particular attention should be paid to lot 2819 of the Sixth Semi-Annual Sale, the lot directly following the Paquet Reverse double eagle, and also purchased by "French" (see Figure 2). The coin in this lot is a Miner's Bank 10 dollar gold piece, a rare coin with an estimated surviving population of 13-30 examples today. No example of this issue can be found in the *Descriptive Catalogue of the Seavey Collection* (Strobridge, 1873), a further indication that Seavey was not "French". However, in the sale catalogue of the Jenks collection (Woodward, June 1883), lot 667 has the following description, "Ten dollars, eagle, with shield, partly surrounded by 13 stars, 'California' above; rev., 'Miner's Bank, San Francisco,' across the field 'Ten D.'; without date, but coined about 1849; fine and rare." Clearly, Jenks must have retained parts of his collection, including this coin, when he sold the rest to Seavey in 1868.

A partially priced and named catalogue of the McCoy sale is available for study, and reveals "French" was the winning bidder on twenty-six lots, while Jenks' name does not appear at all. A similar partially anno-

tated copy of the Fifth Semi-Annual Sale lists "French" as the winner of eight lots, with no mention of Jenks.

Data from the Mickley catalogue is less conclusive and more open to interpretation than the other three sales. "French" is listed as the buyer of twenty-five lots in this sale, all coin lots, beginning with lot 806 and ending with lot 2907. "A. V. Jenks" is listed as the buyer of lot 1940, a 1793 large cent. This is obviously just a misspelling for Jencks and is no cause for concern. Less easy to dismiss are the nineteen lots purchased by "Jenks", beginning with lot 3203 and ending with lot 3331. These lots are all composed of items of numismatic literature: priced catalogues of past sales, newspaper articles, etc. It is possible that the annotator of this sale consistently misspelled Jencks' name, as was done with the single coin lot he purchased, and did not include his initials with his later purchases. This scenario would support the present theory of "French's" identity. Another possibility is suggested by the fact that all the lots purchased by "Jenks", with the unspecified initials, are low-cost literature items, near the end of the sale. Perhaps Jenks entered his bids on the coin lots ahead of time, under his "French" identity, and just bid spontaneously on these inexpensive items at the end of the sale, using his own name. Either interpretation would coincide well with Cogan's statement from the Cohen catalogue, and support the contention that "French" was, in fact, William Jenks.

The conclusion that William Jenks was the collector behind the mysterious persona known as "French" is consistent with all evidence currently available on the early history of the Paquet Reverse double eagle. He should now be recognized as one of the premier collectors of the nineteenth century and the missing link in the pedigree of the discovery specimen of this important coin.

Thoughts on Preserving Digital Numismatic Literature

Benjamin Keele

Despite numerous prognostications, the book is not dead. However, the range of forms numismatic literature can take has certainly expanded. Knowledge that once could only be easily transmitted in paper books or journals is now embodied (to use the term loosely) in digital texts, datasets, and audio and video recordings. The increasing volume of numismatic information produced, both hardcopy and digital, raises important questions about how we can preserve this material and pass it on to future generations of enthusiasts and scholars. Unlike paper books, storing digital files on sturdy shelves in a cool, dark room is not going to do the trick.

My aim here is to continue and expand upon the numismatic community's conversation about the implications of digital publishing for the hobby, particularly those relating to how the community can responsibly maintain long-term and sustainable access to numismatic literature. Some aspects of this question are quite technical, such as archival file format standards, digital media degradation, and file authentication. These are important, to be sure, but I think solutions will be devised once we clarify and reach some agreement on social and policy questions, two of which I will discuss: why is digital preservation important, and who should be responsible for it?

WHY IS PRESERVATION IMPORTANT?

The oldest books relating to coins have survived for roughly half a millennium. What are the chances numismatic resources produced in the last century, or even decade, will be available to numismatists five hundred years from now? Without some intentional, consistent maintenance, the odds are not very good. There are two primary categories of threats to digital information: hardware failure and software obsolescence. Unlike archival paper, which can last hundreds of years, most

media on which we keep digital files, like hard drives, CDs, and DVDs, do not reliably remain functional after a couple decades at most. For large collections kept in one place, one catastrophic event (flood, power surge, media corruption) can wipe out everything. Software can have an even shorter life. As new versions of a program are released, often a file made in version 1.5 will not open in version 4.0. Every so often, digital files need to be migrated to new media and file formats.

The point is that if we do not take sufficient precautions, numismatists twenty, fifty, or a hundred years from now will have significant problems accessing the digital materials we are now producing. While it is true that not every file must be preserved forever, surely some material is worth keeping. Copies of electronic newsletters, like the *E-Sylum* and other club publications, could be used to show how the hobby adapted to the emergence of the Internet, not to mention contents that were not published elsewhere. Digital copies of printed books would prevent tomes with small print runs from falling into obscurity. With digital versions of catalogues like the *Red Book* and *Standard Catalog of World Coins*, scholars could use computers to trace market patterns and combine information into ever more complete and accurate databases. If one wants to research the activities of famous dealers of the early twentieth century, one looks to print advertisements, price lists, and paper correspondence. Researchers of the future will want to look at websites and email. The potential benefit digital research can offer to numismatists is great, but we limit that potential if we do not keep the basic resources.

WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESERVATION?

So, assuming we agree that preserving digital numismatic literature is important and set aside for the moment questions about technical solutions or precisely what materials will be preserved, another major question is who should be responsible for preserving these materials. No matter what preservation solution is adopted, virtually all of them require consistent curation. For example, if a digital archive of a journal were kept on CDs, someone would need to check the CDs every so often to ensure they still work, and move the information to new discs or migrate the files to the latest software as needed. It is very probable that a disc forgotten for fifty years will be discovered and still be useful.

The need for relatively long maintenance points towards vesting responsibility in institutions that have sufficient resources for us to be reasonably confident that they will exist and preserve the archives for the foreseeable future. On that basis, the American Numismatic Society and American Numismatic Association libraries seem like good candidates. They could combine resources to create an archive. Or they could agree to mirror each other's digital collections, enabling an easier recovery if a disaster struck in Colorado or New York.

A more distributed solution could be arranged. Each hobby organization could establish repositories of its own publications and other thematically related materials. Standards exist that would permit organizations to search each other's holdings, thus creating a federated library. Another option would be for publishers to maintain "dark archives," digital holdings that are preserved but not made accessible unless a "trigger event" occurs, like a publisher dissolving, discontinuing a journal, or letting a book go out of print. This would be more attractive to publishers that are currently selling the materials. Regardless of which archiving model is chosen, arrangements should be made to ensure the archive is passed on to another responsible party in the event the first holder of the archive is unable to continue maintaining it. I hope producers of electronic numismatic information, like the digital versions of *The Numismatist*, *Coin World*, and the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* have contingency plans for their holdings.

Individual collectors have a role as well. Given that most manuscripts are produced on computers now, most numismatic writers have some digital files (such as drafts, email correspondence, photos) to consider preserving. Collectors can organize and migrate their files as needed. If the materials are particularly valuable, an institutional library may eventually be interested in taking them. Documentation of the processes of scholars and dealings of collectors could be interesting to future researchers as historical material. If a publisher does not have a preservation policy, a diligent collector could assemble digital backfiles that would be useful in the future.

Of course, copyright law must be a consideration here. Many important numismatic works were published before 1923, which probably places them in the public domain in the United States and thus open for archiving. Otherwise, the copyright owner will need to preserve the

works or grant permission for archiving. Hopefully authors and publishers can be made aware of the need for preservation and persuaded to give permission for archiving to occur, especially after a work has fallen out of print or ceased to be commercially profitable. Even if the market does not wish to pay for a work, future researchers may well be glad to read it.

CONCLUSION

Numismatists and bibliophiles often refer to themselves as temporary custodians of historical items, preserving them during their tenure and then passing them on to future generations. In addition to preserving the bound artifacts, we should also consider ensuring that digital numismatic information will be available for our numismatic descendants. This will require some resources, but if we combine our efforts, the works over which many numismatists have toiled will not be lost, but will continue to serve future hobbyists.

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The Infamous Head Left/Plow Right New Jersey Coppers

Roger S. Siboni

A set of postings by John Lupia and Ray Williams in the Colonial Coins message board on Yahoo Groups allowed us to revisit one of the more interesting moments in the history of New Jersey coppers. The thread dealt with the famous Head Left/Plow Right New Jersey copper discovered by Edward Thorn, auctioned by Ebenezer Locke Mason, acquired by Edward Maris, debunked by Sylvester S. Crosby, and subsequently vigorously defended and remarketed by Mason. While Charles Davis covered this subject in some length in his Woodbury Plate addenda to Crosby in 1996, the story is worth revisiting along with the two other celebrated and catalogued century-old Head Left reengravings that make up the "Head Left trifecta."

The story begins with Mason's sale of the Edward P. Thorn collection on September 6-8, 1869, wherein Lot 617 was described as "1787; ...Horse head to the left; might be termed fine for this variety; large planchet sharp and excellent impression the only one of this variety and date that we have ever seen or heard of" (Figure 1). The coin was enthusiastically acquired by Edward Maris, already a prominent collector and scholar of New Jersey coppers, for \$25. Although Maris had not yet begun to develop his numbering system for New Jersey coppers (let alone publish his book), Sylvester Crosby was already hard at work on *The Early Coins of America*. Maris was so excited with his new acquisition that he wrote it up for the *American Journal of Numismatics*.¹ Therein, he described it with great flourishes, noting the remarkable nature of it being a bold head left with a plow facing right dated 1787 (as opposed to all other known Head Left coins, with a date of 1788).

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1 E. Maris, "A New Jersey Cent," *American Journal of Numismatics* 4 no. 5 (September 1869): 39.

60604	1786;	New Jersey;	fine.
40605	1786;	do	extra good; variety.
30606	1786;	do	very short plough; variety.
20607	1787;	do	very good; variety.
10608	1786;	do	; good; variety;
10609	1787;	do	very large planchet; extra good.
10610	1787;	do	Pluribs; very good; rare.
10611	1787;	do	large planchet; very good.
10612	1787;	do	large planchet; very good; variety.
40613	1787;	do	small planchet; fine.
30614	1787;	do	small planchet; extra good; variety.
40615	1787;	do	small planchet; ex. good; variety.
10616	1787;	do	small planchet; good; variety.
20617	1787;	do	Horse head to the left; might be termed fine for this variety; large planchet sharp and excellent impression the only one of this variety and date that we have ever seen or heard of.

Figure 1. Lot descriptions of New Jersey coppers including the 1787 Head Left piece, from Mason's Edward P. Thorn sale, September 6-8, 1869.

He also described how it was struck on a large planchet, with sprigs on the reverse below the shield and on the obverse below the horse head. He further described the coin as having a die crack from the P in PLURIBUS to the rim.

Maris was excited not only to report his new discovery in the *AJN*, but also to establish it as a new major "type", noting "as far as my Philadelphia friends are aware, one of this variety has never before been offered at public auction, nor has an account of it been published in any periodical or scientific work". Likewise, he wanted to ensure that it would appear in Crosby's upcoming book as a new type. Accordingly, he shipped the coin off for examination by Crosby and the New England Numismatic and Archaeological Society.

Unfortunately, what Maris received back was a very respectful but nonetheless complete condemnation of the "Head Left/Plow Right". Dutifully, Maris reviewed Crosby's findings with noted collector W. J. Jenks (likely a relation of John Story Jenks). Moreover, he had also since come across a similar reengraving but this time dated 1786 in a collection "resident in Brooklyn", New York. Dr. Maris returned the

coin to Mason and graciously consented to have Crosby's condemnation letter published in the next issue of the *AJN*.² Therein, Crosby made a very persuasive case that the piece was a reengraved coin, an original example of which he had in his own collection. Factors he noted included a caved-in planchet providing sufficient metal to tool the horse device, the inconsistency of the head-left engraving over a plow facing right, as well as the scales on the horse's mane bearing an uncanny resemblance to wreath leaves consistently appearing in reengraved 1793 large cents made by Smith of Anne Street. Finally, in matching the subject coin to the one in his own collection, he found that virtually every aspect other than horse device matched the more common New Jersey copper. The likeness was so strong that the coins matched down to the fact that the denticles above the A in NOVA were longer than the denticles which preceded and followed them. Taking Crosby's description of the obverse with Maris's description of the reverse, there can be little doubt that the reengraved Thorn coin was what twelve years later would come to be known as a Maris 63-q (a conclusion also reached by Charles Davis in his 1996 monograph).

In John Adams' 1982 treatise on American numismatic literature, we learn that while Mason was one of America's pioneer numismatic dealer/auctioneers, he never really achieved any measure of financial success. Indeed, he had to shut down and reopen his business on several occasions. Moreover, what success he did have came through his close association with the US Mint in Philadelphia. His most successful auctions were his early ones that were rich in US pattern coinage. Accordingly, Mason did not take well to the setback of having to absorb the return of the \$25 coin (a fair sum at the time) as well as the challenge to his early reputation as a numismatist.

Thus, in the same issue of the *AJN*, he issued a fairly strongly worded rebuttal arguing the genuineness of the 1787 Head Left/Plow Right New Jersey copper.³ He enlisted the help of well-known numismatist R. Coulton Davis as well as both the engraver and the foreman of the Die Department at the US Mint. He requested Davis to subject the coin to whatever tests were required to prove its authenticity. Davis subjected

2 S. S. Crosby, "In Regard to the New Jersey Cent of 1787" [letter], *American Journal of Numismatics* 4 no. 6 (October 1869): 46-48.

3 John W. Haseltine, [letter], *American Journal of Numismatics* 4 no. 6 (October 1869): 48.

- 816 1787 New Jersey Cent; horse head left; fine condition; unique; this piece was sold in the Thorn sale, in Philadelphia, September 6, 1869, and doubted and returned; it has since been put to a thorough test by heat and mechanical appliances, and afterwards submitted to an experienced collector, R. C. Davis, Esq., of Philadelphia, and to the engraver and foreman of the die department of the U. S. Mint, and by them pronounced undoubtedly a genuine coin, struck from dies, not tooled, engraved nor tampered with in any manner.

Figure 2. Mason's re-offer of the 1787 Head Left coin in his J. W. Haseltine sale of November 16-17, 1869.

the coin to extreme heat, proving that it was not an electrotype nor in any way had the head device affixed to the body of the coin. After this process was complete Davis had the mint officials look at the coin under strong magnification, and they pronounced the coin to be fully struck and original. As a final bit of evidence, Mason went back to Thorn to find out where the coin came from. Thorn indicated that he had owned the coin for over four years but had acquired it from a small collection held by a farmer who once lived near him but had since moved away. This account was intended by Mason to prove it unlikely that Smith of Anne Street had anything to do with its potential fabrication.

Mason subsequently re-offered the coin in his Seventh Sale on November 16-17, 1869, as lot 816, where he catalogued it as follows: "This piece was sold in the Thorn sale...and doubted and returned; it has since been put to a thorough test by heat and mechanical appliances, and afterwards submitted to an experienced collector, R. C. Davis, Esq., of Philadelphia, and to the engraver and foreman of the die department of the U. S. Mint, and by them pronounced... a genuine coin, struck from dies, not tooled, engraved nor tampered with in any manner" (Figure 2).

Given Crosby's persuasive arguments, a second comparable reengraved example surfacing, and the die linkage to the Smith of Anne Street 1793 large cents, it is hard to see how such endorsements were obtained, especially since we know of a similar reengraving for the year 1786. Nevertheless, it was a small numismatic community in Philadelphia and perhaps these individuals helped authenticate the coin for the first sale and felt that they had to stand by their first judgments. Perhaps they were simply supporting Mason, an important customer and dealer.

Maybe there was some competition between the two numismatic communities, easily provoking a dispute. After all, in *Mason's Stamp and Coin Collectors' Magazine*, Mason chided Maris by stating, "It is rather strange that our worthy friend and doctor, whose sagacity numismatically is unquestioned, should allow the Boston Boys to be the first to cast doubt upon the coin."⁴ Or perhaps they were just simply mistaken. Likewise, while there is no reason to doubt Thorn's recollection of his acquisition, his story does sound like the beginning of an eBay auction.

In the end, the Head Left/Plow Right did not sell in Mason's second auction, it was once again dismissed as a reengraving in a later *AJN* article and, most importantly, it never found its way into the landmark publications by Crosby and Maris. Indeed, on page 286 of Crosby's book, he cautions the collector of New Jersey coppers to beware of two carefully reengraved Head Lefts dated 1786 and 1787. He concludes his caution by noting that he is not aware of any authentic Head Left New Jersey copper bearing a date other than 1788.

The 1787 piece to which Crosby refers is clearly the Thorn coin which he had previously debunked. The 1786-dated coin was likely the "Brooklyn" coin that Maris had become aware of while awaiting Crosby's confirmation of the 1787 piece. It is also likely that this "Brooklyn" piece found its way to the famous numismatist Lorin G. Parmelee of Boston. As a fellow Bostonian, member of the New England Numismatic and Archaeological Society, and book collaborator, Crosby no doubt also had the chance to study the 1786 coin at length.

When Parmelee sold his collection during June 26-27, 1890, through the New York Stamp & Coin Co. and Bangs & Co., they described in Lot 446: "Finely altered from M. 14-J: horse bust and plow, face left as on 1788 type: remarkably well executed...very fine and doubtless unique."

Remarkably, these two reengraved head lefts can be traced down over more than a century to the present and are held by two well-known New Jersey copper collectors. In side-by-side comparison, the modern-day owners concluded, as did apparently Crosby and Maris, that they were reengraved by the same hand. That hand was again presumed to be Smith of Anne Street because of the mane's likeness to the wreaths

4 E. Mason, *Mason's Stamp and Coin Collectors' Magazine* 3 (1869): 123.

UNIQUE COIN OF NEW JERSEY.

105.00 3677 Nova Caesarea; horse's head to left; small plough; the date 1786 appears above the plough-beam and below the horse's head; rev., a broad, short shield, "E Pluribus Unum." This coin, which is, to all appearance, genuine, was dug up in New Jersey several years ago, at a depth of several feet in the earth. The owner's confidence in the piece is such, that it is limited at \$100. See Plate. *a fraud entire*

Figure 3. Description of the 1786 Head Left coin with date between horse and plow in Woodward's sale of October 13, 1884.

on the 1793 large cents. That leaves us with only one other century-old, expertly reengraved, and catalogued Head Left to complete the "trifecta".

In W. Elliott Woodward's sale of October 13, 1884, he offered for auction an assortment of coins from various nations. But lot 3677 stood out and was described in a category by itself entitled "Unique Coin of New Jersey". Unlike most other coins in that auction, it had a reserve of \$100 because of the "owner's confidence in the piece." The lot was described as follows: "Nova Caesarea: horse's head to the left; *small plough; the date 1786 appears above the plough-beam and below the horse's head*; rev., a broad, short shield, 'E PLURIBUS UNUM.' This coin, which is, to all appearance, genuine, was dug up in New Jersey several years ago, at a depth of several feet in the earth [emphasis added]." This coin was stated to be one of the few "plated" coins in the Woodward sale, but unfortunately no such coin appeared in the plates. Likewise, the place of discovery again sounds reminiscent of an eBay listing. Nevertheless, the plated and annotated copy of this Woodward sale in the ANS Library indicates it achieved a hammer price of \$105 (again a significant price for the time), but with the notation alongside saying "a fraud entire" (Figure 3).

Interestingly, that was not the first sighting of this unusual 1786 New Jersey Head Left/Plow Right with the date between horse and plow. In the September 1879 issue of *Numisma*, Edouard Frossard wrote that H. G. Sampson, a New York coin dealer located at Broadway and Fulton in Manhattan (just two blocks from the former ANS headquarters) had shown him a New Jersey copper with "Horse head to the left, under

it the usual straight wreath. Plough turned to the right, the handles short and with straight ends, the beam straight, without coulter or single tree. Between the horse head and the plough is the date 178(6). *Reverse*: E PLURI(B)US UNUM. Shield small and rounded. Border serrated. Edge plain. Size 17. Condition good, except date, which is too small and weak to be distinct. Impression rather coarse, or else struck on a very rough planchet. Take it all in all, a very remarkable piece. This heretofore previously unknown Jersey cent is well worthy of the attention of collectors."⁵

Curiously, there is an unsigned follow-on letter addressed to Mr. Ed. Frossard stating "Mr. H. G. Sampson has handed me the New Jersey penny of 1786, with horses head to left and requested me to state whether it was made by me. It is not one of my pieces."⁶ Several have presumed that this note was provided by Smith of Anne Street before his death. Unlike the Thorn and Parmelee coins, I am uncertain of what became of this coin or whether it still exists. It is interesting to note that if the follow-on note was from Smith of Anne Street, this one "not being one of his" might suggest there were other Head Left fabrications of *his*. Another interesting item worth noting is the mention of a wreath (or one can assume sprigs) once again appearing beneath the horse and presumably above or below the date. This would suggest a Maris 60, 61, 62, or 63 as the host obverse. It is also not clear why the B in PLURIBUS in Frossard's description was in parentheses. If it had been the U, we could then infer a Maris 60 or 61-p. But without the coin, we will never know.

So where does all this leave us? Today, there are plenty of reproductions, casts, electrotypes, and reengravings of the enigmatic Head Left New Jersey coppers. It could form a collecting area unto itself. However, very few can boast a head left and plow right. Fewer still can demonstrate such expert work by the likes of Smith of Anne Street that it could fool even the good doctor Maris. And finally, fewer still can document their provenance back over a hundred years to some of the most important United States numismatic collections ever assembled. That is why these three pieces constitute the "trifecta" of all Head Left New Jersey copper fabrications.

⁵ "A New Variety of Jersey Cent," *Numisma* 5 no. 3 (September 1879): [4-5].

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. [5].

Lot 88, A True Incunable

John W. Adams

George Kolbe's Auction 107, held on January 10, 2009, contained any number of outstanding items. To those interested in the history of our hobby and its traditions here in the United States, no item could have had more appeal than Lot 88. After a physical description noting that it combines two articles—"A Descriptive List of American Medals" by James Mease (1834) and "A Description of American Medals" by J. Francis Fisher (1837)—Kolbe described the lot in his typically insightful manner as follows:

Ex Chas. I. Bushnell, with his bold pencil autograph on the recto of the second front free flyleaf, in his "trademark" red half morocco. A unique compilation, assembled and custom-bound by one of America's most famous nineteenth century numismatists. Bushnell's annotations include an inventory of specimens in his collection, in various metals (gold, silver, copper, tin), interesting observations (including the location of dies, notes on copies, additional varieties, a new addition, etc.), and the names of die cutters (Pingo, Edward Duffield, Duvivier, Gatteaux, Dupré, John Reich, Furst, Wyon, Kirk, and others). *Pages 1-12* comprise Mease's detailed listing of seventeen American medals "struck at various times in Europe and in Pennsylvania; some in reference to events in the American Colonies; others in honor of the military heroes of the American war;—of the captors of Major André; of Captain Truxtun for the capture of a French frigate in the year 1800; and of Captain Preble for his attack on Tripoli with an American squadron in the year 1804." *Pages 13-24* comprise Mease's "description of the Medals presented to the officers who distinguished themselves during the late war with England, by sea and land; of one awarded to Major (afterwards General) Henry Lee, in the year 1779; and of three, engraven and struck by the late Joseph Sansom of Philadelphia." *Pages 26-33* feature Fisher's descriptions of fourteen "Medals of General Washington"; five "Medals of Dr. Franklin"; one "Medal of Jefferson"; one "Medal of Dr. Rush"; three "Medals of the Revolution"; and 14 American colonial medals.

Noted physician, scientific thinker, and author, James Mease (1771-1846), was one of Philadelphia's most prominent citizens. In numismatic circles he remained virtually unknown until recently rediscovered as the author of "the first truly numismatic article published in America" (Eric P. Newman, *The Asylum*, Summer, 1992, page 4), an article first printed in 1821 and revised and expanded in the 1834 edition present here. Joshua Francis Fisher, also of Philadelphia (1807-1873), was a respected author and historian. His 1837 work present here, only the second American numismatic article, lists thirty-eight medals, only one of which is listed by Mease, despite the identical running title of both works: *Description of American Medals*. Little need be said of Charles Ira Bushnell; his numismatic fame precedes him. With obvious loving care, he assembled the volume at hand, joining together these two pioneering works and enhancing them by including some of the knowledge gained by his early researches on American historical medals, combined with an early record of his remarkable collection. Interesting background information on these early numismatic missionaries will be found in *The Asylum* article previously cited and in subsequent articles therein by Joel J. Orosz. Truly a remarkable American numismatic *incunable*.

Like a tailor selecting his fabrics, Bushnell clipped the Mease and Fisher periodicals from their respective periodicals and sewed them together (quite literally) with fitting adornments. This was no *pièce de caprice*. Rather, Bushnell was paying homage to the first two numismatists to study our national historical medals. This was a field that interested him mightily, one in which he was to build a reference collection.

The book could have remained eloquent homage to two pioneers. Instead, doubtless pleased with his work, Bushnell chose to use the newly created book as a living compendium of his study of the field. As noted by Kolbe, beside the description of each medal is entered in pencil the engraver, the metals in which the design was struck and the owner's holdings.

The engravers are widely published today but apparently were not known to Mease and Fisher. Thus, this is information that Bushnell sought out himself. In like manner, the metals were not cited in the original monographs but rather were added from the owner's experience. These data are incomplete by today's standards, but state-of-the-art at the time.

The holdings as enrolled in Lot 88 are truly exceptional. Taking the *Comitia Americana* series only, Bushnell owned no less than eight of

these twelve in silver: Washington Before Boston, Horatio Gates, Louis de Fleury, John Paul Jones, Daniel Morgan, William Washington, John Eager Howard, and Nathanael Greene.¹ Whereas he never located specimens of the great rarities—Anthony Wayne, John Stewart, and Henry Lee—he owned copies of each, with “copy” duly noted in his entries. When the Chapman brothers auctioned the Bushnell collection on June 20 to 24, 1882, all of the pieces listed were present, with the sole exception of the Washington Before Boston medal in silver.

Next to the Fleury entry in the book, Bushnell noted “Robt L. Stuart—gold.” In *Comitia Americana and Related Medals*, the authors cite a letter dated March 1780 from Fleury to Franklin: “... The medal voted for me by congress, is a silver one; but I could wish, besides, to have one of gold struck at my own expences. It will not hurt the dies; I leave money for that purpose in the hands of the medallist [presumably Duvivier]. He will keep the gold medall for me till my Return.”² The authors concluded, all too glibly it would seem, “Franklin ignored Fleury’s requests wishing, no doubt, to make the presentation in person and having no wish to ignore the instructions of Congress by countenancing a medal in gold.”³ The medal referenced by Bushnell has never surfaced elsewhere but, given the accuracy of his penciled additions to Lot 88, we have little doubt that a Fleury medal in gold does exist. Either Fleury snatched it by the back door or Franklin engaged in a dubious gesture of noblesse oblige.

Kolbe concludes his description of Lot 88: “Truly, a remarkable American numismatic *incunable*.” We had always taken “incunable” to refer to something very old. Webster’s *Unabridged Dictionary* allows this usage but lists as its number one definition: “The very first stages of anything; infancy; beginnings.”⁴ By this measure, “incunable” is a totally definitive description of the piece. Here, in an unprepossessing little book, are to be found the first recorded heartbeats of a special study to be shared by many in the century since and many more in the centuries to come. Here can be found motivation for the Herculean labors

1The Chapmans described the Greene medal as “copper, silver plated.” Bushnell Catalogue, 6/20-24/1883, p. 84.

2Barbara B. Oberg et al., eds., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 32 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996), p. 200.

3John W. Adams and Anne E. Bentley, *Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage* (Crestline, Calif.: George Frederick Kolbe, 2007), p. 81.

4Webster’s *New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*, s.v. “incunable”.

undertaken by C. Wyllys Betts and the inspiration for the lavishness of the *magnum opus* of the Duc du Loubat. Here in Bushnell's passion one can foresee the strivings of W. W. C. Wilson, Charles P. Senter, John J. Ford, Jr., and a host of others. Medal collecting is a specialty like none other and Lot 88 captures its essence.

Help Promote the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Howard A. Daniel III sets up a club table to represent the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (and the International Bank Note Society, Numismatics International, and the Philippines Collectors Forum) at both of the annual American Numismatic Association events, the Florida United Numismatists (FUN), and the International Paper Money Show.

The Asylum and NBS membership applications are given to numismatists interested in the society from the table. Journals and applications for the other societies are also given out.

There are also world bank notes and world coins to give to young and new numismatists in a packet which includes a consolidated membership application form for all four groups. References are given to numismatists but especially to teachers and scout counselors, for them to use with their students and scouts.

Howard always needs volunteers to staff the table and needs your unwanted references, world banknotes, and/or world coins. Please contact Howard at hadaniel3@msn.com to make the donation arrangements. The best method to get them to him is to take them to one of the three shows, otherwise, you can mail them to him. Howard can also send a thank-you letter to each donor which will document their donation for tax purposes.

Katen's "Pots and Pans" Fixed-Price List

David D. Gladfelter

Just about every small-business person, sooner or later, gets in the position of being forced to accept payment in kind for services rendered. Examples close to home include my father-in-law being paid for a remodeling job in shoes, my wife accepting a rather hideous painting from one of her marriage and family therapy clients, and myself receiving a legal fee in oriental carpets.

Frank J. Katen, the coin dealer who pioneered in creating a market for numismatic literature, was no exception. Early in his career, just before Christmas 1955, he handled a "routine large coin sale" for which he was compensated in various and sundry household consumer merchandise. Remember electric blankets, flash bulbs, and Ronson lighters? Frank had plenty of these to move, and more.

So what did he do? He cranked up his mimeograph machine and put out an obviously non-numismatic fixed-price list. "POTS AND PANS FOR COINS!" it stated. "NATIONALLY ADVERTISED FAMOUS NAMES... Everything at a fabulously low price... DELIVERED TO YOU... 39 shopping days TILL XMAS."

You won't find this fixed-price list in Remy Bourne's catalogue of Frank's rather long series of sale lists. It was not included in Frank's own set of 73 of his fixed-price lists, which he sold as lot 923 of sale #80 of "the worldwide numismatic library of Frank and Laurese Katen". So while nothing great in numismatic lit came out of this sale—nothing at all, in fact, in that category—the list is quite rare and documents a side of the numismatic literature business that the public doesn't often see.

At this late date I can't remember when or where I obtained my copy of this list. I call it "Katen 27-A", because it was likely issued after Frank's last mimeographed list, no. 27 in October 1955, and before his first printed list, no. 28 in January 1956. It is reproduced on the following two pages for your enjoyment. The original is on goldenrod-colored paper (not green and red as you might expect).



FRANK J. KATEN

1144 PRIMROSE ROAD, N.W.

WASHINGTON 12, D. C.

POTS AND PANS FOR COINS! - Including miscellaneous merchandise, Shavers, Photographic Supplies, Ronson Lighters, Parker Pens, Electric Sheets and Blankets, Portable Typewriters and Watches.

It all started out as a routine large coin sale - however I couldn't get paid in cash so had to take merchandise instead.

This merchandise is good clean stuff - all either 1955 or 1956 models - all in original cartons or packings - and all carrying the manufacturer's guarantee or warranty, whichever is applicable. Everything I have is **NATIONALLY ADVERTISED FAMOUS NAMES** merchandise -- SUNBEAM, SCHICK, REMINGTON, GENERAL ELECTRIC, WESTON, PARKER, ROGERS, LONGINES, LECOULTRE, WESTINGHOUSE, KODAK, RONSON, etc.

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--	General Electric, Direct Reading	15.95	12.45
--	Weston, #735, Master II	31.50	23.95
--	Weston, Cine #736	31.50	23.95
--	Weston Direct Reading	18.00	13.45
--	Sekonic 'Leader', with case and chain	16.95	8.95
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	Double bed "	39.95	29.95

39 shopping TILL
day XMAS
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<u>ELECTRIC SKILLETS:</u>	General Electric, (Cover \$2.50)	\$19.95	13.95
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<u>COFFEE MAKERS, AUTOMATIC:</u>	General Electric, 2 to 9 cups	29.95	21.95
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--	Sunbeam 8 cup perc.	26.95	19.95
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--	Sunbeam 10 cup coffee-maker	37.50	25.95
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--	Universal 8 cup	24.95	18.95
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	#365 Kodachrome, 16mm roll (or #365A)	3 rolls	31.20
	#382 Kodachrome, 16mm magazine (or #382A)	3 rolls	20.85
<u>ARGUS</u>	C3 Camera Outfit or Argus 300watt Automatic Projector each	66.50	55.95

Report on the NBS Meetings

NBS conducted a highly successful series of meetings at this year's ANA Convention. The venue, Los Angeles, was not ideal for optimum attendance but this drawback dampened activity on the bourse more than it did the spirits of NBS members.

The NBS Symposium led off our calendar, with Q. David Bowers speaking to a full house about his new book, *The Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*. The book, an instant classic, received some measure of the speaker's attention, but Dave digressed—as only Dave can—into a rich variety of related (and semi-related) topics. The audience showed its appreciation with multiple ovations at the conclusion of the presentation. The event was not recorded, but a hardbound copy of the book was circulated and duly signed by all in attendance. Dave then donated the book to the NBS auction to be held the following day. For those curious about what this treasure fetched, read on.

The NBS Board welcomed its new slate of officers:

President: Dan Hamelberg

Vice President: Dan Freidus

Secretary-Treasurer: David Sundman

Directors: Scott Rubin, David Perkins, Len Augsburger, Marc Ricard, David Fanning, and Frank Campbell

The Board voted to propose an additional three directors to the Annual Meeting: John W. Adams, Martin Logies, and Syd Martin

Outgoing president John Adams chaired the meeting which, in addition to naming a slate of officers, took the following actions:

- Commended David Yoon on his outstanding editorship of *The Asylum* and vowed to keep the material flowing.
- Extended appreciation to Wayne Homren for his remarkable stewardship of *The E-Sylum*.
- Extended appreciation to David Lange for counting the ballots and to

Howard Daniel for manning our booth on the bourse floor.

- Voted a contribution of \$1000 each to the ANA and ANS libraries.
- Voted the Collins Award to Bill Bugert as the best first-time author.
- Directed Messrs. Rubin and Orosz to trace past Feldman and Champa awards and recommend a policy for future Champa, Feldman, and special Collins awards.
- Directed Mr. Rubin to re-issue requests for material for a Kolbe biography.
- Mr. Augsburgberger volunteered to write a piece on the enhanced utility of our website for *The Asylum*.
- Voted a \$1000 contribution to the ANA to fund a scholarship for Young Numismatists.
- Messrs. Ricard and Sklow recounted their efforts and our opportunities with the Young Numismatists organization.
- Mr. Sundman presented the Secretary-Treasurer's report, which showed our membership remaining level, a minimum of unpaid dues, and more than \$18,000 in the bank. Members should know that our vital signs exhibit statistical health to go along with the good spirit that the club has long enjoyed.

The annual meeting of the club, held the following day on August 7, met with strong attendance. Outgoing president Adams introduced the newly elected slate, after which incoming president Dan Hamelberg chaired the session. The first order of business was to elect three additional directors: John Adams, Martin Logies, and Syd Martin. With the organization now fully constituted, Mr. Hamelberg went around the room for introductions, updates on new books underway, updates on book auctions to come (of which there are many), and other items of general interest. After the secretary-treasurer's encouraging report, Brad Karoleff took center stage to auction off a small but choice group of donated items. A hardbound edition of the Collins-Breen book on 1794 dollars (donated by the Collins family) brought \$5,000; a hardbound copy of Dave Bowers' new book on colonial coinage, signed by all the attendees at the previous day's symposium, fetched \$7500. It was a sunny day for the club's exchequer and a marvelous note on which to end the meeting.

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NBS Membership: in the United States, \$15.00 annual dues for standard mail, \$20.00 annual dues for first-class mail; outside the United States, \$25.00. Members receive all available issues of the current volume. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

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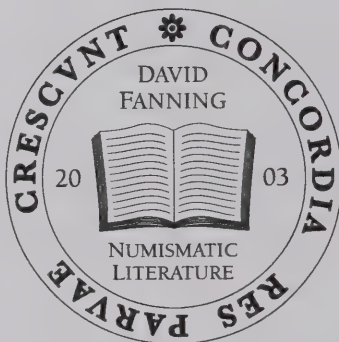
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David F. Fanning

Numismatic Literature



Auction III December 3, 2009

We will be conducting our third mail-bid auction of numismatic literature, which will close on December 3. The sale includes works on ancient, medieval, foreign and U.S. numismatics, with many rare and important works. Important archival materials are included in the sale, which also features works from the library of the late Douglas Ball.

A printed catalogue will be issued, which will be sent to established customers and to those requesting a copy.

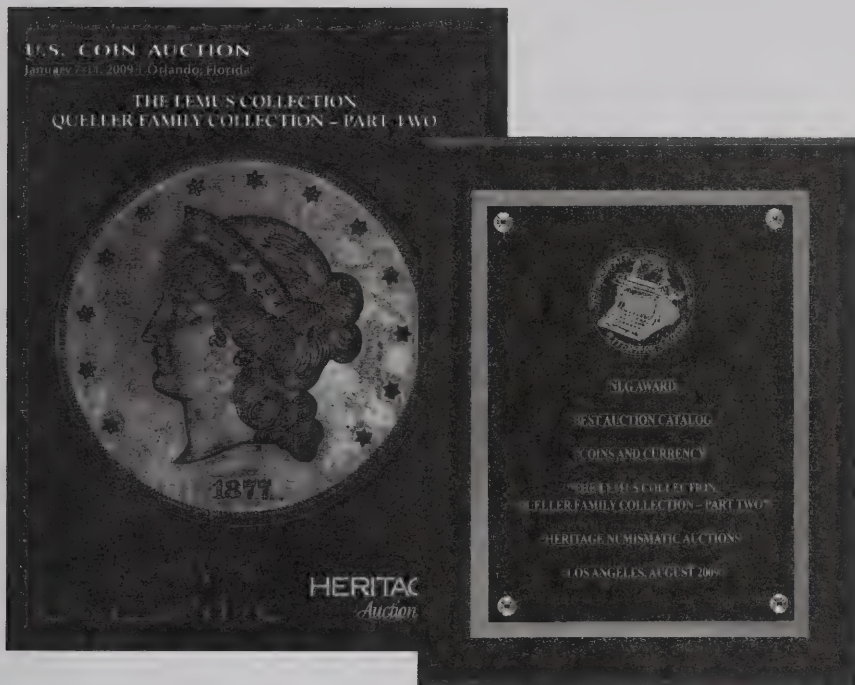
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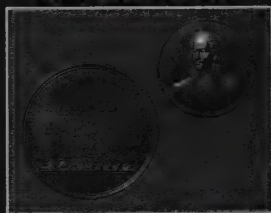
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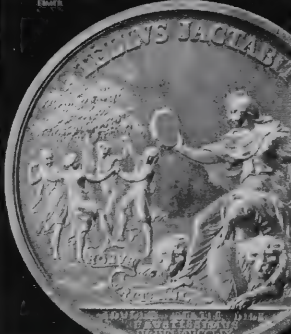
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100 Grains	==	a Ducat of Ex.	0	3	4	
23 Tarins	==	a Pistole	0	15	4	
25 Tarins	==	a Spanish Pistole	1	16	9	

SICILY AND MALTA. *Palermo, Messina, &c.*

A Picchila	—	—	0	0	0	7 1/2
6 Picchili	==	a Grain	0	0	0	7 1/2
8 Picchili	==	a Ponti	0	0	0	7 1/2
10 Grains	==	a Carlin	0	0	1	1 1/2
20 Grains	==	a Tarin	0	0	3	1 1/2
6 Tarins	==	a Florin of Ex.	0	1	6	1 1/2
13 Tarins	==	a Ducat of Ex.	0	3	4	1 1/2
60 Carlins	==	an Ounce	0	7	8	1 1/2
2 Ounces	==	a Pistole	0	15	4	

Bologna, Ravenna, &c.

A Quattrini	—	—	0	0	0	1 1/2
6 Quattrini	==	a Bayoc	0	0	0	1 1/2
10 Bayoca	==	a Julio	0	0	6	1
20 Bayoca	==	a Lire	0	1	0	
3 Julios	==	a Testoon	0	1	6	
85 Bayoca	==	a Scudi of Ex.	0	4	3	
105 Bayoca	==	a Ducattoon	0	5	3	
100 Bayoca	==	a Crown	0	5	0	
31 Julios	==	a Pistole	0	15	6	

VENICE, *Bergam, &c.*

A Picoli	—	—	0	0	0	7 1/2
12 Picoli	==	a Soldi	0	6	0	1 1/2
6 and one half Soldi	==	a Gros	0	0	2	1 1/2
18 Soldi	==	a Jule	0	0	6	1
20 Soldi	==	a Lire	0	0	6	3
3 Jules	==	a Testoon	0	1	6	
124 Soldi	==	a Ducat current	0	3	5	7 1/2
24 Gros	==	a Ducat of Ex.	0	4	4	
17 Lires	==	a Chequin	0	9	2	
6 S						TURKEY



Why should freedom of speech and freedom of the press be allowed? Why should a government which is doing what it believes to be right allow itself to be criticized? It would not allow opposition by lethal weapons. Ideas are much more fatal things than guns. Why should any man be allowed to buy a printing press and disseminate pernicious opinions calculated to embarrass the government?

VLADIMIR ILYICH LENIN
1870-1924

PROVIDED COURTESY OF GEORGE FREDERICK KOLBE
FINE NUMISMATIC BOOKS ~ WWW.NUMISLIT.COM

The Asylum

Vol. 27, No. 4

Consecutive Issue No. 106

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Front cover: A section of the coin chart in the 1801 edition of Guthrie's *A New Geographical, Historical, and Commercial Grammar*, reformatted from the folded table mentioned in this issue by David Fanning and Eric Newman.



An Eighteenth-Century Coin Chart: A Mystery Solved

David F. Fanning and Eric P. Newman

In the Summer 1996 issue of *The Asylum*, Eric P. Newman published an article describing two large eighteenth-century coin conversion charts, one apparently British and the other American.¹ Neither chart included imprint information, leaving the identities of the printers and the dates and places of publication uncertain. Accompanying the article were copies of both charts, and a contest was announced with a prize offered to whoever was able to identify the publications.

No one ever claimed the prize.

Thirteen years later, the sources of the coin charts have been identified. The American version of the chart was printed for and included in William Guthrie's *A New System of Modern Geography*, which was published by Mathew Carey in Philadelphia in two volumes, one in 1794 and the other in 1795.² This encyclopedia of the world was based on earlier British editions of Guthrie's work, which are the sources of the British version of the chart.

The Guthrie work is a large reference, published in England beginning in 1770.³ It went through a number of British editions, which were published as single volumes; the 1794-95 edition published by Carey is the first American edition, and was issued as a two-volume set. This American edition (Figure 1) is especially important as it expands the coverage of America from the 39 pages in the fifth British edition to

1 Eric P. Newman, "Developing Commentary and Observations on Differences between American and English Foreign Exchange Broad-sides Having No Date or Place of Issue," *The Asylum* 14.1 (Summer 1996), pp. 3-5, insert.

2 W. Guthrie, *A New System of Modern Geography: Or, a Geographical, Historical, and Commercial Grammar; and Present State of the Several Nations of the World* (Philadelphia: Mathew Carey, 1794-95). 4to. 572; xi, (1), 704, 43, (1) pages. Two copperplate engravings are called for in Volume I and two folded tables in Volume II.

3 W. Guthrie, *A New Geographical, Historical and Commercial Grammar and Present State of the Several Kingdoms of the World... with a Table of the Coins of All Nations, and Their Value in English Money* (London: Printed for J. Knox, 1770).

Samuel J. Earl

A NEW
SYSTEM
OF
MODERN GEOGRAPHY:

OR,
A Geographical, Historical, and Commercial Grammar;
AND
PRESENT STATE
OF THE

SEVERAL NATIONS OF THE WORLD.
CONTAINING,

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>I. The Figures, Motions, and Distances of the Planets, according to the Newtonian System and the latest Observations.</p> <p>II. A general View of the Earth, considered as a Planet, with several useful Geographical Definitions and Problems.</p> <p>III. The great Divisions of the Globe into Land and Water, Continents and Islands.</p> <p>IV. The Situation and Extent of Empires, Kingdoms, States, Provinces, and Colonies.</p> <p>V. Their Climates, Air, Soil, Vegetables, Productions, Metals, Minerals, natural Curiosities, Seas, Rivers, Days, Promontories, and Lakes.</p> <p>VI. The Birds and Beasts peculiar to each Country.</p> | <p>VII. Observations on the Changes that have been any where observed upon the Face of Nature since the most early Periods of History.</p> <p>VIII. The History and Origin of Nations; their Forms of Government, Religion, Laws, Revenues, Taxes, Naval and Military Strength.</p> <p>IX. The Genes, Manners, Customs, and Habits of the People.</p> <p>X. Their Language, Learning, Arts, Sciences, Manufactures, and Commerce.</p> <p>XI. The chief Cities, Structures, Ruins, and artificial Curiosities.</p> <p>XII. The Longitude, Latitude, Bearings, and Distances of principal Places from Philadelphia.</p> |
|--|---|

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

I. A Geographical Index,

WITH THE NAMES AND PLACES ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED,

II. A Table of the Coins of all Nations,

AND THEIR VALUE IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

III. A Chronological Table of remarkable Events,

FROM THE CREATION TO THE PRESENT TIME.

IV. The late Discoveries of Herschell, and other Astronomers.

BY WILLIAM GUTHRIE, Esq.

THE ASTRONOMICAL PARTS CORRECTED BY DR. RITTENHOUSE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

THE FIRST AMERICAN EDITION,

CORRECTED, IMPROVED, AND GREATLY ENLARGED.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY MATTHEW CAREY.
P. B. J. M. DCC. LXXIV.

Figure 1. The title page of Volume I of William Guthrie's *A New System of Modern Geography* (Philadelphia, 1794).

341 pages of detailed discussion. Charles Evans, in Volume 9 of his masterpiece *American Bibliography*,⁴ wrote the following about the first American edition:

Preface dated, Philadelphia, February 5, 1794. An edition of twenty-five hundred copies was printed. The second volume, printed in 1795, contains a seven page list of subscribers' names, which varies in different copies, indicating that additional names were added during printing. The American part of the work was furnished, page by page, by Jedidiah Morse. The directions to the binder indicate that forty-seven maps were issued to subscribers with the work — seventeen for the first volume, and thirty for the second volume — but these are seldom, or never found bound with the work. In 1795, Carey published his *American Atlas*, with twenty-one maps, most of which bear the inscription: "Engraved for Carey's American edition of Guthrie's Geography improved." And in 1796, Carey's *General Atlas*, with forty-five maps, which include all the maps issued in connection with his edition of Guthrie. It is in the form of this *General Atlas*, that the maps which should accompany this work are usually found.

Evans assigns the first American volume of Guthrie his number 27077, and the second volume 28782 (as each of the two volumes making up the work was printed by a separate printer in a different year, Evans treats them as independent publications). The preface to the second volume is dated April 27, 1795. The coin conversion chart is included as a folded table in Volume II, which also includes a folded table listing exports from the United States.

The primary author of this work, William Guthrie (1708-1770), was born in Brechin, Scotland.⁵ He translated Cicero but is best remembered for his *Geography*. An initial geographical work was published by him in 1769, but the following year saw the publication of the first

4 Charles Evans, *American Bibliography: A Chronological Dictionary of All Books, Pamphlets and Periodical Publications Printed in the United States of America from the Genesis of Printing in 1639 down to and Including the Year 1820, with Bibliographical and Biographical Notes*, Volume 9: 1793-1794 (Chicago: printed for the author, 1925). Evans died while his work was still being conducted; the project was completed through 1800, after which various other researchers, most notably Ralph R. Shaw and Richard H. Shoemaker, continued the project.

5 Much of the information concerning the people who produced the Carey edition comes from John Rennie Short, "A New Mode of Thinking: Creating a National Geography in the Early Republic," in *Surveying the Record: North American Scientific Exploration to 1930*, edited by Edward Carlos Carter II (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1999), pp. 19-50.

edition of his main geographical work. The book went through many editions in England, with a 24th edition appearing in 1827 and printings appearing through 1842. The Carey edition is the only eighteenth-century American printing of the work, though revisions were published in the nineteenth century under different titles and by different authors.

The first American edition was published by Mathew Carey (1760-1839), who was born in Dublin, Ireland. An Irish Catholic, he was forced to flee his native land after publishing various works criticizing the British Penal Laws that subjugated the majority of the people in Ireland. He was briefly imprisoned for these publications, after which he spent some time in France and eventually moved to Philadelphia in 1784.

Unsurprisingly, Carey detested the British, and his edition of Guthrie reflects this feeling. Guthrie had stated in the 1795 British edition that "No country in Europe equals England in the beauty of its prospects, or the opulence of its inhabitants." In Carey's American edition, this has been unsubtly changed to "England swarms with beggars."⁶

Carey became a very successful publisher in America. Among his better-known works is the *American Museum*, a periodical that remains of considerable importance today. He was encouraged in his business pursuits by a number of prominent people, including Lafayette.

Carey contracted with Jedidiah Morse to expand the American content for his edition of Guthrie's *Geography*. Morse was born in Woodstock, Connecticut, in 1761 and died in 1826. He is often considered the father of American geography, publishing a number of textbooks on the subject. He was also a clergyman and the father of Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph. In addition to the important content added by Jedidiah Morse, Carey consulted with David Rittenhouse (Director of the United States Mint, 1792-95) on some of the astronomical data included in this American edition of Guthrie's *Geography*.

The text includes additional content of numismatic interest to that contained in the coin conversion chart. The paper money issued by the American Continental Congress is discussed, as are the attempts by the British to counterfeit this currency in an effort to destroy the American economy. Inflation is also described.

⁶ As noted in Short, "A New Mode of Thinking," p. 27.

The extensive title page of each volume of the American edition includes the following content information:

A Table of the Coins of all Nations,
AND THEIR VALUE IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

No numismatic writings of which we are aware quote, cite, or refer to this topic as being covered in Carey's publication. Eckfeldt and DuBois (1842), for instance, were careful to mention Bonneville (1806, French) and Kelly (1821, British) as background sources for studies of world-wide money, but do not mention Guthrie's work, which was published in Philadelphia where their own book was published. Although Guthrie's table does not schedule metallic composition and weights, it covers descriptions of virtually all the coins Eckfeldt and DuBois include.

Carey did the printing for the first volume, but had Philadelphia printer Richard Folwell print the second volume.⁷ They were published at an aggregate price of \$16, then a considerable sum, and had a print run of 2,500 copies. It was an enormous undertaking, but Carey had a very good reputation and a well-organized distribution network.

The Carey foreign coin conversion chart is of considerable historical importance to students of American numismatics. Part of the reason that identifying its source was difficult in the past was probably because it had been assumed that the work was a broadside: a separately issued publication intended for distribution on its own. In fact, it is a table printed for inclusion in a book and hence not a separate imprint. This does not diminish the table's significance, however, as apparently the most detailed coin conversion chart of eighteenth-century America.

Recently, in examining several copies of the second volume of the American edition of Guthrie's *Geography*, it was observed that on some printings of the coin conversion table there was printed under the center of the bottom border:

PHILADELPHIA: Printed for M. CAREY by R. FOLWELL,

The printer's name had been added to the conversion table in the course of printing — possibly because separate copies of the table might be needed, and the source would then be clearly stated.

Some numismatically related personalities who were listed as sub-

⁷ On the lower part of the last page of Volume II of the American edition appears the line: "PRINTED BY R. FOLWELL FOR MATHEW CAREY."

scribers in the American edition of Guthrie's *Geography* were Tench Francis, Jr., Hugh Gaine, James Jarvis, Robert Morris, John Nixon, Joseph Nourse, David Rittenhouse, David Sellers, and President George Washington.

As a final note, it may be of some interest to readers to know how the puzzle of the mystery coin conversion chart was solved. On a recent visit with Eric P. Newman, David Fanning was shown the original chart that was reproduced for the 1996 *Asylum* article. Fanning took a photo of it with his iPhone and, upon returning to his hotel, used the photo to look up the exact title of the chart on Google. He almost immediately located the book in which it was included. The time he spent actively searching for the source of the chart was perhaps two minutes. Let no one suggest that new technology is the enemy of the bibliophile.

Help Promote the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Howard A. Daniel III sets up a club table to represent the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (and the International Bank Note Society, Numismatics International, and the Philippines Collectors Forum) at both of the annual American Numismatic Association events, the Florida United Numismatists (FUN), and the International Paper Money Show.

The Asylum and NBS membership applications are given to numismatists interested in the society from the table. Journals and applications for the other societies are also given out.

There are also world bank notes and world coins to give to young and new numismatists in a packet which includes a consolidated membership application form for all four groups. References are given to numismatists but especially to teachers and scout counselors, for them to use with their students and scouts.

Howard always needs volunteers to staff the table and needs your unwanted references, world banknotes, and/or world coins. Please contact Howard at hadaniel3@msn.com to make the donation arrangements. The best method to get them to him is to take them to one of the three shows, otherwise, you can mail them to him. Howard can also send a thank-you letter to each donor which will document their donation for tax purposes.

“You Don’t Say”: Numismatic Quarterly Quiz

Myron Xenos

1. Pillar dollars counterstamped with GR in a circle were for use in which Caribbean island?
2. The German operation that counterfeited pound notes during WWII went by what name?
3. A so-called dollar featured a Ferris wheel, issued for what exposition?
4. During what year was a copper coin issued for Prince Edward Island?
5. By what name are the Sommer Islands now known?
6. Which country struck coins for the Culion Leper Colony?
7. Who was mintmaster of Massachusetts Bay Colony when coinage was first struck there?
8. Arrows were placed at the date of US minor coins in 1853 for what purpose?
9. Where was the Deseret Mint (also known as Bullock’s Money Mint) located?
10. Name the four states that struck official state coins during the 1780s.
11. What are the two denominations of the Feuchtwanger tokens and what year are they dated?
12. We all know of George Heath, but what was the first name of Mr. Heath of *Counterfeit Detector* fame?

So, Who Is This George Kolbe, Anyway?

Pete Smith

While strolling through the paths of the Walker Art Center sculpture garden, I noticed a life-size bronze nude. The plaque identified the artist as George Kolbe. I didn't know Kolbe was a sculptor. Who is this guy?

Let's step back a moment. I knew that George Frederick Kolbe was the founder (with Jack Collins) of our Numismatic Bibliomania Society. He is a well-respected dealer in numismatic literature and a familiar face at our annual NBS meetings. Let's refer to him as Kolbe the book-seller.

Kolbe the sculptor is someone else. He was born in Germany — in Waldheim, Saxony — on April 13, 1877. In German his name is spelled Georg, without the "e". His father was a painter and Georg also initially studied to become a painter, in Dresden, Munich, and Paris.

In Rome in 1897, Georg met Auguste Rodin, who greatly influenced his interest in sculpture. He later studied under Louis Tuillon in Rome from 1898 to 1901. Returning to Germany, he settled in Leipzig briefly and then Berlin in 1904. His early work was supported by art dealer Paul Cassiver. The 1912 graceful dancer *Die Tänzerin* ("The Ballerina") is probably his best known and most loved work.

From this he earned his first public commission to produce a monument for the Jewish poet Heinrich Heine at Frankfurt. Kolbe invited the dancers Vaslav Nijinsky and Tamara Karsavina to pose in his studio. They were appearing in the ballet *Le Spectre de la Rose*. With their inspiration, the Heine monument shows a male and a female dancer atop a pedestal.

Kolbe is considered one of the great sculptors of his time, working in an innovative style. While the monumental sculptures of the late nineteenth century were personifications of virtue, Kolbe's figures were autonomous nudes representing the human spirit.



Figure 1. Medal commemorating Kolbe the sculptor (photo courtesy of Kolbe the bookseller).

Georg served with the German infantry during World War I. He was spared from combat and continued to sculpt in Constantinople. He was named a professor in 1918 and admitted to the Prussian Academy of Arts in 1919. After the war Kolbe's work evolved toward geometric figures. In the 1920s he competed for public commissions. He produced monuments and cenotaphs for Beethoven and Nietzsche. During this time he also collected paintings of other contemporary artists.

The cheerful female figures of his early years became more sad and lonely after the death in 1927 of Kolbe's wife Benjamine. He built a new house and studio in a western suburb of Berlin to be near her grave.

Kolbe was attacked by conservative and anti-Semitic forces for his creation of the Heine memorial. The sculpture was removed from its pedestal and put into storage in April of 1933. It was called the "Spring Song of Kolbe" and spared from scrap drives during the war. It was returned to its public place in 1947 in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Heine.

With the rise of the National Socialist movement, Kolbe's style changed again, expressed as heroic realism with athletic male nudes. The German Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda prepared a list in 1944 of 1041 artists that were crucial to National Socialist culture and exempt from military service. Kolbe was on the list, so he wasn't called into service at age 67. Although his sculptures supported Nazi ideals, he declined a commission for a Hitler portrait.

Kolbe completed about 1000 sculptures, but many were damaged, destroyed, or melted during Germany's wars. He suffered from cancer and loss of eyesight and died on November 20, 1947. His home and studio in Berlin opened as the Georg-Kolbe-Museum in 1950 (with a website at <http://www.georg-kolbe-museum.de/kolbe-engl.htm>). The museum has expanded to include the works of other artists. The museum sponsors the Georg Kolbe Prize for contemporary art.

His work at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis is *Junge Frau* ("Young Woman"), completed in 1926. It is described as the high point of his mature style.

Are the Kolbes related? I asked Kolbe the bookseller if he was familiar with Kolbe the sculptor. He has collected some Kolbe art books, a medal, and a small bronze sculpture but cannot make a family connection. I have a general knowledge of genealogy resources but was unable to find much on the ancestry of either Kolbe.

So, what is the importance of Kolbe the sculptor in numismatic literature? Probably none, but I still believe the name makes this an interesting story.

Answers to the Numismatic Quarterly Quiz (see page 140): 1) Jamaica; 2) Operation Bernhard; 3) Columbian Exposition of 1893; 4) 1871; 5) Bermuda; 6) Philippines; 7) John Hull; 8) to signify reduction in weight; 9) Salt Lake City; 10) Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey (New York's coins were not official, and New Hampshire only produced patterns); 11) 1 cent and 3 cents, 1837; 12) Laban.

The Numismatic Bulldog: Tales from the Road

Leonard Augsburger and Joel Orosz

We recently spent a few days in the Philadelphia area, on the trail of Frank Stewart and all things First Mint. It is good to get one's ducks in a row prior to traveling to archival repositories, and much time is typically spent on the Internet checking things in advance. On this trip, Frank Stewart's building and demolition permits for the first Mint campus were a prime target. Internet sites geared towards architectural research in Philadelphia made it look like a slam dunk. You show up, they greet you with a fresh cup of Starbucks, and roll out the red carpet for anyone willing to take an interest in their corner of the world. Yup, this would be a simple set of documents to retrieve. Now, let's set the scene here. The day previous, we had been granted access to the interior of the Philadelphia Mint exhibit space, in order to get a first-hand look at Frank Stewart's unique pair of silver-center cent planchets. So perhaps we were a bit spoiled in our archival questing.

The next day began by driving from New Jersey into downtown Philadelphia. The weather was great, traffic wasn't too bad for a get-away day into a holiday weekend, and parking was duly acquired for the usual center-city pricing — which is to say excessive, but still a good proposition when one considers the prospect of paying for hotel rooms in central Philadelphia.

From there we headed over to the Department of Licenses and Inspections in the Municipal Services Building, where it was said that the index for historic building permits existed. Until now we had thought that moats had gone the way of medieval castles, but such is not the case here. A gatekeeper on the ground level of the building allows you into the basement after you state you are headed to the "L&I department." Get the verbiage right, or you may be thwarted. Once in the basement, expect to be treated like a barbarian at the gate while you wait in line to

WELCOME TO
LICENSE AND
INSPECTIONS

B35

BUILDING
Thu 02 July 2009
Time: 12:00:03

THANK YOU
FOR WAITING

Figure 1.

state your business in L&I. If the cellar gatekeeper deems your request acceptable, you are issued a ticket (Figure 1) and are allowed to wait some more in the seating area until your ticket number is called. More waiting, and eventually our ticket number was announced. Once called, a long discussion ensued at the counter where they insisted that the building permit index did not exist for anything previous to 2006. They weren't quite sure where to go from there but suggested the City Records in nearby City Hall. We thought better of their advice and instead taxied over to the City Archives just west of the 30th Street station.

We knew the permits were in the Archives, but they are useless without the index, as thousands upon thousands are issued every year. We knew, of course, that Stewart purchased the first United States Mint property in April 1907, but that bit of information was just a needle in a haystack. The index had to be found first! The archivist there explained that the index was in fact at L&I, and that it was on microfilm. I got the archivist's name and number, because I strongly suspected we would have to get someone to call him personally later. In the meantime we took advantage of the time there to check their photo archive, which yielded a couple of images of great interest to us, including a very high-quality photograph of the deed to the First Mint property. These were quickly scanned (I never travel to an archival repository without a scanner) and we taxied back to the L&I.

More lines — we waited at the groundfloor and cellar gatekeepers, got our special waiting room ticket, and finally got to talk again to someone at L&I. Still no luck; they asked around in back and no one knew where the index is. They gave the name of a supervisor, who they said was on vacation that day, and suggested we call back the next week. And further, they thought the indexes had been transferred over to City Hall, but they had no idea where. So we trekked across the street to City Hall.

The Philadelphia City Hall is a wonderfully grand structure. It feels like you are in the Old World walking through this place. It is so big that the inner courtyard has its own subway station. And atop it all there is a colossal statue of William Penn overlooking the city bureaucracy as it spins its wheels, which are apparently square. Anyway, it's not really clear where you are supposed to enter City Hall. We wandered around until we found the "311" information desk, where we waited in line once again. While waiting in line, we were entertained by a woman in front of us who wished to sue the city for false imprisonment. She said she had a thousand dollars in cash with her, "enough money to file a lawsuit." Folks, we are not making this stuff up. There is no need for fiction in this world; all you have to do is write stuff that actually happens and that is plenty sufficient. This was all amusing enough, except that the poor woman simply would not give up her case, and we were forced to wait a few minutes longer until the clerk dispatched her and we got our turn. We were directed to the Department of Records in room 156.

We explained our situation to a gentleman there named Nesbitt, and I must say he was a true gentleman. Mr. Nesbitt, if you are out there reading this, we cannot thank you enough; you would have made Poor Richard very proud today (a followup letter of gratitude was later dispatched to Mr. Nesbitt's management). Nesbitt's department has absolutely nothing to do with what we wanted, but he was kind enough to get the City Archivist on the phone, and then contact the L&I folks to sort things out. He gave us the name of someone in L&I to talk to directly, and we started to feel slightly hopeful. Remember, we are still working on just finding the indexes. We headed back over to L&I, and even though we had to wait in line once more for a ticket (which gave us the privilege of waiting even more until our ticket number was called), the ticket dispenser indicated that we could use a house phone

to directly call the contact name furnished by Mr. Nesbitt. We headed back up to the counter and the clerk there recognized us and indicated that she could help out (a good thing too, because our contact name was not listed on the house phone list). After about another ten minutes of waiting, an employee from the back, who actually knew where the indexes were, came out and asked us what addresses we were interested in. These were supplied, and after a few more minutes, the indexes, which are on microfilm, were produced. Now, there are no microfilm readers in this area. So, we were asked for a driver's license as a deposit and directed back across the street to City Hall, where it was alleged that microfilm readers existed.

None existed in the Department of Records office, but we were taken downstairs to their basement, where there is a room containing approximately twelve broken microfilm readers and one working one. We had to be accompanied by an employee who is going to remain nameless for his protection: we shall call him Mr. H. as in "helpful" (speaking as Mr. S. as in "sarcastic"). The single machine was occupied by a title researcher, and we had to wait for access. We had to thread and advance the reader by hand, while Mr. H made some comment about the machine "not working right." The lot numbers were found surprisingly quickly, along with the permit index numbers, which were quickly becoming the holy grail. We attempted to photocopy all the information, which did not work, at which time Mr. H. observed that the copier wasn't working, which of course we already knew. Nevertheless, we had retrieved the index numbers, albeit at the expense of a sore hand. Then it was back across the street to the Department of Licenses and Inspections in the rather ironically named "Municipal Services Building," where, after yet another round of tickets and waiting, we returned the microfilm and retrieved the driver's license, which-mercifully-they were able to find on the first try.

We taxied yet again to the City Archives, just in time to sync up with the rather late lunch break of the archivist. So we were yet again stymied for an hour, but we first filled out the call slip with all the index numbers and then headed over to the 30th Street station for some much-needed lunch. Incidentally, we would like to give some props to our Philadelphia City Archivist, David Baugh. The previous time the lead author was there, a few months before, some crazy elderly woman — not the same

one we met in City Hall trying to sue the city — made a daily visit to the archive office and demanded to see “her deed.” She would call for it, and whatever was produced by the archivist was always the “wrong” deed, and she would insist that the last time she had been to the office the “other” archivist had been “nice” to her and produced the deed, and she could not understand what was wrong with all these people, and why couldn’t they find her property deed — she was going to complain to the City about all of them. I dearly would have loved to have spent a few minutes with her and further written up her story; it would have made great copy for a local newspaper (for all you Simpsons fans, think about the “Bart’s People” episode where he does a news story on an old man whose pond ducks may or may not have disappeared), but as out-of-town research time is very expensive, I had to ignore her as best I could and move on to the task at hand.

Well, the 30th Street station is a grand old eastern train station, and we munched at the salad emporium there before heading back to the City Archives. While waiting for our building permits we browsed through their catalogue records to see what else they had there, and a few promising leads were noted for the next trip. Mr. Baugh got back from his rather late lunch and quickly located our permits. They were just what we were looking for, a record of all the work on the Mint properties after Stewart bought them until the whole area was razed for redevelopment in the 1960s. Unfortunately, the books were oversized and the photocopier — you guessed it — was broken, so it was back to the scanner, which required two scans for every page in the permit books. We captured about a dozen records, then packed up quickly as plane time was approaching.

From there it was yet another taxi back to our parking lot near City Hall, and from there a relatively quiet trip out of the city back to the airport. The documents were retrieved at last, and we had our story about Stewart’s building, which we will naturally relate in due course. And we promise that you will not have to go to the Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections in order to read it!

A Unique Buying Opportunity

Dave Hirt

As a collector, did you ever dream of being at a coin sale where you had the most advantageous advantage to buy coins? My dream would be a sale held on an April 15, with a situation like a brownout that would make it difficult for people to get there.

Such an advantageous sale actually happened on October 23, 1871, as reported in the November 1871 issue of *Mason's Coin and Stamp Magazine* (vol. 5, no. 11, page 173). The sale was that of the collection of J. Ledyard Hodge, an early collector who had gathered an impressive collection. The sale was held at Hodge's former residence on K Street in Washington, DC.

According to Mason's account, only two buyers were present at the sale, Mason himself and a Mr. Knox of the Treasury Department. Mason was able to capture most of the rare and desirable pieces, except a set of half cents from 1840 to 1850 that were purchased by Knox for \$9.25 each.

The following rarities were purchased by Mason: proof sets of 1846, 1854, 1856, 1857, and 1858; proof dollars of 1836, 1846, 1847, 1849, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858; a unique pattern half dollar of 1839; a pattern half dollar of 1838; a pattern half dollar of 1859 with Pacquet head; proof half cents of 1833, 1834, 1850, 1854, 1856, and 1857; and proof cents of 1854 and 1856. Mason's brief report does not mention the prices he paid for these lots or what, if any, competition Mr. Knox gave him, but on the following page he notes that the total realized for the collection was \$435.07.

The January 1872 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics* reported the prices realized at the Hodge sale. Some highlights among them included the proof sets of 1846 (\$25.00), 1854 (\$19.50), 1856 (\$18.00), 1857 (\$14.00), and 1858 (\$8.75); a 1796 proof dime (\$8.50);

a proof cent of 1821 (\$9.50); and a group of proof half cents of 1833, 1840-1848, and 1852 (\$90.75 for the lot).

This sale is listed in Martin Gengerke's *American Numismatic Auctions* (8th edition) as being catalogued by William L. Wall. It listed 44 lots on one page. The only time that I recall this rare catalogue being offered at auction was in the Armand Champa collection. It realized \$440 on a \$75 estimate.

I think this is the real enjoyment of collecting numismatic literature, when you can find such interesting information looking through books in your library.

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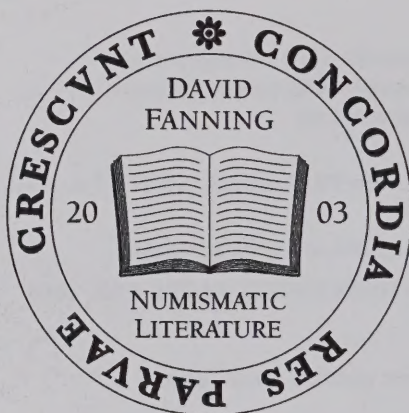
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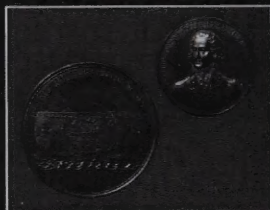
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